

P 15. PROMOTING KANGAROO CARE – INTERVENTION USED AT LEVEL 3 NICU

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Background: Developing ways for Kangaroo Care (KC) promotion is essential for the functions of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), for the professionalism of the staff and for the health promotion of the patients and their families. Promoting Kangaroo Care in the NICU project was established 2006 to develop means to promote actions that facilitate the provision of KC in the NICU of the Children's Hospital in Helsinki, Finland.

Aim: To reinforce the multiprofessional team's knowledge of KC and of early parent-child attachment process and to give tools for promoting them.

Materials and methods: Intervention Research approach was used.

Written reports of Kangaroo Care in patient charts were assessed. Survey questionnaires on the attitudes of staff members and parents were conducted before and after intervention. Kangaroo Care Guidelines were established. Systematic education program for staff members was conducted. **Results:** Positive attitude. Earlier start of KC, from approximately 16th postnatal day to 2nd postnatal day. 99% of staff participated in KC education. **Conclusions:** This type of intervention promotes the use of KC. Obstacles to implement KC relate to lack of appropriate space in the NICU and high patient occupancy.

Key words: Kangaroo Care, Education, Intervention, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit