

A Concept Analysis of Maternal Awareness

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Key Words: inner knowing, attentive presence, nurturing potential

Purpose: To present a poster analyzing the concept of maternal awareness and to propose a research study based on the conclusions of the concept analysis.

Method: A literature search was conducted through data bases including Academic Search Elite; Alt HealthWatch; Applied Science & Technology Abstracts; CINAHL; ERIC; Health Source - Consumer Edition; Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition; Humanities Abstracts; MEDLINE; Pre-CINAHL; PsycARTICLES; and Regional Business News. The concept was analyzed using Walker and Avant's method of concept analysis and included comparison to a middle range theory of nursing. A model of the concept was developed.

Findings: Dispositions extracted from the literature to create a definition of maternal awareness included: maternal role, maternal identity, maternal role attainment, maternal role acceptance, role sufficiency, maternal nurturing, and need anticipation. Maternal awareness involves a multidimensional process that evolves as the mother and child grow together. It involves the powering potential of care that the mother provides for the child's well being.

Discussion: Maternal awareness is a concept that can be utilized in the post natal period and in the pediatric clinical setting. The development of tools to measure this concept will be proposed for future research.