

# **Analysis of Research Instruments Used to Measure Maternal/Fetal Attachment**

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## **Research Instruments, Maternal/ Fetal, Attachment**

**Purpose:** Choosing valid and reliable instruments is critical to the success of any research study. The purpose of this poster is to present findings from an analysis of research instruments used to measure maternal/fetal attachment. Available research instruments will be investigated to evaluate their psychometric properties, ease of use, and availability.

**Method:** Research instruments were identified by locating journal articles that describe the use of research instruments to measure maternal/fetal attachment. These research articles were noted using the electronic search engines of CINHALL, Academic Search Elite, and PubMed databases including the years 1980-2004. A hand search of journals including the *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, *Advances in Nursing Science*, *Maternal Child Nursing Journal*, *Nursing Research*, *The Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecological and Neonatal Nursing*, and *Child Development* was conducted to identify recently published articles that were not indexed in the computer search engines.

**Findings:** The psychometric properties of the Maternal-Fetal Attachment Scale, the Prenatal Self-Evaluation Questionnaire, the Prenatal Maternal Attachment Scale, the Prenatal Attachment Inventory, and the Maternal Antenatal Emotional Attachment Scale will be described. The instruments will then be compared and contrasted in relation to their psychometric properties, ease of use, availability, and conceptual fit.

**Discussion:** Maternal/Fetal Attachment research is dependent upon valid and reliable instruments. Analyzing and comparing the psychometric properties as well as ease of use, availability, and conceptual fit are essential prior to initiating research. This poster presentation will serve to advance research in maternal/fetal attachment through comparison and analysis of existing research instruments.