

## KANGAROO MOTHER CARE (KMC) IN A POST DISASTER COUNTRY: THE EXPERIENCE OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL OF HAITI (H.U.E.H.).

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### Background

In January 2010, a tremendous earthquake destroyed Port-au-Prince, capital of the Republic of Haiti, causing about 300,000 casualties. Among the consequences faced by the Haitian population was the complication of an already precarious health situation. The infant mortality rate (52.44 %) already the largest in the region, is still a challenge. Haiti will most likely not reach the fourth Goal of the millennium development goals, the reduction by two-thirds of infant mortality. It is within these circumstances that the neonatal unit of H.U.E.H. began the implementation project of KMC. Eight (8) months after, the objective through this paper, is to assess the progress and potential impact of the implementation of Kangaroo Mother Care, at the State University Hospital of Haiti on the lives of mothers and their premature infants.

### Methodology

This is a retrospective study, analyzing the records of premature infants who received Kangaroo Mother Care. The psychological analysis annotations of the mothers and the main constraints arising from the daily reality of those mothers and their newborn in the neonatology unit are among the main aspects reviewed.

### Results

From October 2011 to July 2012, 51 premature infants have benefited from the kangaroo mother method. The main constraints found during the above period reflected the misunderstanding of the entourage of the mothers (9.8%) and the impact of socio-economic difficulties (5.8%). From the adolescent mother to the much-experienced mother of three or five, behavior toward and adaptation to the method varied. The criteria for premature newborn to leave the unit often undergo modifications due to those factors faced as well by one or the other. For many families, KMC strengthen family ties, which in return will promote good application of the method (80%). Outpatient follow-up reflects the success of the method: mothers (84% retention) appreciate the opportunity to be able to come back at the neonatal unit; through this monitoring, neurological disorder (3.9%) and after-effects on newborn's eyes (3.9%) had been diagnosed.

### Conclusion

The overall experience of KMC is positive. For the Haitian women, it is becoming a source of hope and renew of confidence, reinforcing the natural spirit of combativeness that singles them out.

