

# European Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology 21<sup>st</sup> Congress of the E.B.C.O.G.

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## ⑤ Confirmation

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Reference : Abstract\_EBCOG\_0551

### General Information:

At this time we have asked you to submit your abstract for review by the members of our Scientific Committee of the EBCOG 2010 Congress. Once they have finished their review process, you will receive a [final confirmation](#) that will explain the outcome of the review process. Please always use the reference number (\*) in your communications.

We received the following submitted Data:

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Information on the Submission Abstract

### Abstract Title:

Ethology of human birth. II. A newborn's stereotypic research behaviour for face detection

### Abstract Authors:

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**Abstract Body:**

**OBJECTIVES.** The objective of this research was to increase our knowledge about the human birth ethology with the aims to improve the scientific foundations of obstetric routines and antenatal education to parenthood. **MATERIAL AND METHODS.** We video recorded 75 births of healthy normal term infants. The camera was focused on the newborns' face and placed behind one of the mother's shoulder with the aim to record her words, profile and hands gestures. The most important video sequences were analyzed frame by frame. **RESULTS.** All newborns of the study exhibited a repeated stereotypic upper lids, eyes and head up and down behaviour interrupted by crying faces. This behaviour promotes face detection which can occur quickly when the newborn is placed in the en-face position with another person. The first eye to eye contact with the mother and/or the father was followed by rapid newborn soothing if he was not disturbed by unpleasant perceptions such as regurgitation and if the parent was ready to have affective gaze exchanges with her or his child. In a few cases, newborn's hedonic facial expressions followed the first gaze exchanges. Most parents of the study said that during the first gaze exchange with their child they felt in love with him and fell becoming the mother or the father of this child. **CONCLUSION.** Mothers and fathers must be informed during pregnancy of the newborns' visual ability to detect their face and to have affective gaze exchanges with them. They must prepare to get ready to accept friendly their newborn's gaze without any judgment. Support and counselling must be given especially to pregnant women who are emotionally perturbed by any kind of life event, mainly to those who are upset by the death of a loved one.

**Abstract Classification:**

Presentation preference: [Video/dvd presentation](#)

Main Track: [General Obstetrics](#)

Sub Topic : [Clinical examination](#)

Sub Topic : [Training and education](#)

Your Keywords : [newborn ethology attachment](#)

Application for ENTOG Award:

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