INTRODUCTION
There has been an increase in the incidence of preterm births worldwide, with Colombia not being an exception, not only due to the increase in the population, but as a result of a greater proportion of maternal and gestational problems resulting in deliveries before the end of pregnancy; the figure is significant, 18%, generating emotional and social impacts, and becoming a traumatic experience for mothers, who must deal with feelings of failure, guilt, and the loss of the illusion of having a perfect baby; all this, added to the physical-emotional separation of mother and baby after birth, which interferes with the emotional bonding process. Moreover, the stress associated with the separation from the newborn, long hospitalizations, and the concern for the wellbeing of the baby, often persists well beyond the first year of the child’s life.

OBJECTIVE
To determine the risk of negligence in the maternal care of the hospitalized preterm newborn.

METHOD
Design: Cross-sectional Collection of information: Seven months Population: Mothers of preterm infants delivered at the University Hospital who were at the in-hospital setting, and mothers of preterm infants at the out-of-hospital setting in the city of Bucaramanga (Colombia). Inclusion criteria: -Mothers of hospitalized preterm infants, -mothers of preterm infants out of hospital. Exclusion criteria: -Teenage mothers, mothers with communication problems, -mothers with psychiatric problems. Instrument: The Parenting Inventory for Adults and Adolescents (IPAA) was used as valid and reliable instrument. This assesses attitudes towards parenting that are considered as high risk of negligence in child care.

Analysis guidelines were followed as per the IPAA instructions. Low score (1-2) and low score (3-4) are ascribed to physical punishment and inadequate expectations towards children; appropriate expectations towards children and appropriate mother-child role has high score (5-10).

RESULTS & DATA ANALYSIS

DISCUSSION
The mothers should develop a series of abilities, skills and capabilities in order to adopt their new role. When the adoption of the maternal role is deficient, the risk of negligence in child care emerges, characterized by the absence of basic care due to neglect or omission, which affects the neurodevelopment of the newborn baby. Negligence has a negative impact on children’s development and, unless remedial actions are taken, deficits accumulate and keep influencing negatively the subsequent development of the child. Therefore, healthcare personnel should be aware of and listen to the experiences of mothers and their parenting expectations to provide them with support throughout this process.

PRACTICE IMPLICATIONS
There are significant differences between in-hospital and out-of-hospital settings as to parenting expectations and the risk of negligence in child care. Long hospital stays should become a fertile ground for interdisciplinary interventions aimed at strengthening the maternal role among mothers of preterm babies.

REFERENCES

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