

## **Vinculação em bebês institucionalizados e competência narrativa dos seus principais cuidadores: estudo sobre a actividade cardíaca do bebé na interacção com a figura de cuidados através do *BioBeAMS 2.0***

### **Results:**

**Children's development level and temperament:** Most children presented cognitive, language and motor development level below the 50th percentile; over 58% of the children were perceived by the caregivers as displaying difficult temperament.

**Attachment, temperament, length of institutionalization, and exposure to risk factors:** 31% of the children were classified as disorganized; over 45% displayed indiscriminate attachment behavior, which was positively correlated to the caregivers' perception of this kind of disturbed attachment and to the exposure to risk factors, and negatively correlated to the length of institutionalization.

**Quality of the caregivers' narratives and children's temperament, development level, and attachment quality:** Caregivers had difficulties in producing narratives in the different tasks, particularly in the caregiving interaction (41.4% of the caregivers failed to even producing a narrative). Narrative quality was positively correlated to children's language development and negatively correlated to motor development. Attachment security was correlated to the presence of autobiographical narrative, but no correlation was found with the narratives' quality.

**Children's cardiac activity during the Strange Situation Procedure (SSP) and during caregivers' narrative tasks:** Children's heart rate (HR) was higher during the SSP episodes of higher emotional stress. In comparison to the SSP, lower levels of HR were observed during the narrative tasks. Insecure and disorganized children displayed lower HR than secure children during several SSP episodes. No relations were found between caregivers' narrative quality and children's HR during the SSP and the narrative interaction tasks.

### **Published work:**

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### **Area(s) of interest:**

Attachment and developmental psychopathology

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