ORAL: MOTHER´S CHOICE OF INFANT POSITIONING TIME IN PRONE AND SUPINE IS ASSOCIATED WITH CHRONOLOGICAL AGE IN INFANTS UP TO SIX MONTHS OF LIFE.

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Objective: To verify if there is relationship between the time (hours) that infants from up to six months of age spend in prone and supine positions during one day and the chronological and gestational age (weeks), birth weight and maternal age. Method: We interviewed mothers of 92 term infants up to six months of age. First, we recorded personal data of the mother (age) and infant (chronological, gestational age and birth weight). To measure the approximate time that the infant stays in each posture for a day, we used a 24-hour timeline, in which each one-hour period could be filled with different positioning options. The mother should remember the most frequent positioning of the infant in the last week to fill this timeline. For the analysis, we used the total time spent in prone and supine positions. Results: Spearman's correlation test showed that chronological age (14.07 ± 6.90 weeks) was associated ($p<0.01$) with the time the infant remained in prone (2.09 ± 3.64 hours) and supine (12.06 ± 6.51 hours) positions for one day. The higher the chronological age, the longer the infant stays prone (rho = 0.309; p = 0.003) and the shorter in supine (rho = - 0.474; p = 0.000). Because of this result, we divided the total sample into six groups (G1, G2, G3, G4, G5 and G6) of 15 each one, according to the infant's chronological age (1 to 6 months), and by Kruskall-Wallis test we verified that there is difference in the positioning times in prone (p = 0.014) and supine (p = 0.000) among the groups. The Mann Whitney U test used to verify the difference between group pairs showed that
it is from the 5th month that there is an increase in hours spent in prone (p = 0.002, where G1 = 0.4 ± 0.6 versus G5 = 4.25 ± 5.90) and from the 6th month a reduction in the supine positioning time (p = 0.002, where G1 = 14.13 ± 7.03 versus G6 = 5.26 ± 2.60). Implications: Since experience in prone position is associated with development of head and trunk muscle control, these results underscore the importance of parenting guidance on infant body positioning in firsts months of life.