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BED SHARING AMONG SIX-MONTH-OLD INFANTS IN WESTERN SWEDEN.

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Abstract

In spite of several reports of an increased risk of SIDS in connection with bed sharing, it is not an uncommon practice. The aim of this study was to examine bed sharing at six months of age and the factors that are associated with bed sharing. Our cohort comprised 8,176 randomly chosen families. Methods: At six months of age the families received an invitation to the study, with a questionnaire, which was completed by 5,605 families (response rate 68.5%). 19.8% of the families bed shared. In the multivariate analysis, we found a correlation between breast-feeding and bed sharing (breast-feeding at 6 months: OR 1.94; 95% CI 1.56, 2.41). Moreover, we found an association with 3+ nightly awakenings at six months (2.70; 2.20, 3.32). It was more common to share a bed if the parent was single (2.04; 1.19, 3.51) and less common if the infant was bottle fed in the first week (0.70; 0.54, 0.90). Never using a pacifier was associated with a higher frequency of bed sharing. Conclusion: correlation between breast-feeding and bed sharing as well as with sleeping problems and a single parent. A lower percentage of infants sleeping in the parental bed was seen in association with formula feeding in the first week after birth.

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