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Beyond the NICU-borders**Van Hoestenbergh MR**

Ziekenhuis Oost-Limburg, Belgium

Developmental delay is a high risk for prematurely born children and has great consequences on their later quality of life. Working at the NICU for a longer time, one understands the great burden and stress parents undergo by the premature birth and how it effects their interaction with the child. Since good parent-child interaction is an important contributor to the infant's neurological development, we continue the parental support post-discharge by using an informative web-application. This application is offered to the parents until the corrected age of 2 years. We study the parental stress, the support they seek and whether the web-application has an impact on them and on the child's development until the corrected age of 5

years. We also study the difficulties in using the application and hope to open perspective to other digital systems that could optimize the support of these fragile children and families.

Speaker Biography

Van Hoestenbergh MR has completed her medical and pediatric studies in July 1992 at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium. She is certified in neonatal intensive care and is working in the NICU of Ziekenhuis Oost-Limburg in Genk since 1993. She is the actual head of the NICU and member of the Belgian governmental college "Mother and Child". She has a special interest in sustained parental support beyond the NICU by using an age-adapted web-application and participated in the SCENE-group research concerning parental closeness in the NICU.

e: marie-rose.vanhoestenbergh@zol.be

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