Efficacy and safety of screening for postpartum depression


Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
To describe the benefits and harms of specific tools and strategies for screening for postpartum depression.

Authors' conclusions
The potential effectiveness of screening for postpartum depression appears to be related to the availability of systems to ensure adequate followup of women with positive results. The ideal characteristics of a screening test for postpartum depression, including sensitivity, specificity, timing, and frequency, have not been defined. Because the balance of benefits and harms, at both the individual level and health system level, is highly dependent on these characteristics, broad consensus on these characteristics is needed.

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