ABSTRACT. Objectives: Determine the relationship between mothers’ perception of Nursing’s promotional preventive activity and compliance with Growth and Development control in children under 1 year old at a health center in the San Juan district of Lurigancho in Lima – Peru. Methods: The method used was the hypothetical-deductive. The non-experimental design of cross-section and correlational level. The sample was 118 mothers of children under the age of 1 who attended the Health Center Growth and Development office in a given month of 2017. A Likert scale and data collection sheet from the Growth and Development control record was applied. Results: 45.8% of mothers have an unfavourable perception of preventive nursing activity, while 41.5% have an unfavourable perception of promotional activity. At the same time, 44.9% of mothers do not meet the right number of growth and developmental controls for their children under the age of 1. Conclusions: Mothers’ perception of Nursing’s promotional preventive activity is significantly related to compliance with Growth and Development control in children under 1 year old (Rho de Spearman pv -0.007, with strong correlation).

Keywords: Primary Prevention, child, Child Health, nursing, Health Promotion, prevention & control.
INTRODUCTION

Growth and development control (CRED) is the care given to children under 5 years old in order to discover early the deficiencies that could occur at this stage of life. According to the Peruvian Ministry of Health (MINSA), every child should have 11 monthly controls from the first month to the first year of life, then 6 controls in the second year, followed by 12 controls from 2 years to 5 years.¹

The community nurse plays an important role in enforcing CRED controls by applying the health promotion model. Nevertheless, it is estimated that only 28% of Peruvian children under 3 years old have complete controls.³ Likewise, the departments with the lowest coverage are Madre de Dios, Moquegua, and Pasco.⁴

When reviewing the CRED control coverage of the Health Directorates that belong to Lima, we found that in 2015, this goal was met between 19.73% and 32.7%.⁵ Therefore, it is important to emphasize follow-up activities by strengthening comprehensive child care through home visits, educational actions and communications aimed at the population.⁶

This is where the role of the mother comes in, which is very important because she takes care of her children and must join with the nurse, who performs the preventive promotional work ensuring an atmosphere of dialogue, role development, exchange of experiences and, above all, resolution of doubts.⁷

Studies carried out on mothers’ compliance with the Cred control and their satisfaction with the preventive promotional activity carried out by the nursing professional show interesting data such as 12% of children have incomplete controls, 76% of mothers do not attend the control because they consider that going to the health facility represents a costly expense, 64% do not attend because they must take care of their other children. In addition, 40.6% of mothers are not satisfied with the control, 20% say that there is no friendly, respectful or cordial treatment on the part of professionals and consider the waiting time excessive.⁸¹⁵

The growth and developmental assessment consultation are vital for the child and should be conducted periodically and systematically during the first 2 years of life¹⁶ so as to support favorably this complex process that includes numerous components such as the body, mind and personality that develop simultaneously.¹⁷

On the other hand, health promotion encompasses actions aimed at strengthening and changing social, environmental, and economic factors in order to minimize the impact on public health and the individual, while facilitating capacities to address the determinants of health.¹⁸ Adequate promotional and preventive performance in a nurse-mother alliance will support the child in a global manner, encompassing biology, psychology, emotions and spirituality, strengthening their skills and knowledge, maintaining in optimal conditions their present and future health.¹⁹

With the intention of contributing and strengthening the mother as a key protagonist to create a health culture in the family and social environment, since through her the approach of the child with the health establishment is given. In addition, considering the need to identify the weak points related to the preventive and promotional activities carried out by the nursing staff so that they can contribute and increase the coverage of care in the control of growth and development; a study was proposed with the objective of knowing what is the relationship between the perception of mothers of children under 1 year old of preventive-promotional activity of nursing and compliance with growth and development control in a health center in the district of San Juan de Lurigancho in Lima, Peru.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Study of quantitative approach, correlational level, non-experimental and cross-sectional design. The population of 784 mothers of children under 1 year old attended was considered in 2017. The sample consisted of 118 mothers. The sample was non-probabilistic for convenience, surveying mothers of a given month of the year according to the authorization given for this purpose.

The technique for the maternal perception variable was the survey through a Likert scale made up of 24 items divided into 12 that evaluated the perception of health promotion and 12 that evaluated the perception of prevention in health. Compliance with cred control was observed through a checklist of the child’s medical history. The instrument was validated by expert judgement with an average validity of 76%. Furthermore, to determine reliability, a pilot test was carried out on 20 mothers who were not part of the sample. According to Cronbach’s alpha analysis, 0.878 was obtained.
RESULTS
In chart 1, it can be observed that mothers have a greater unfavorable perception regarding the preventive activity of nursing (45.8%) compared to the promotional dimension in which the unfavorable perception is present in 41.5% of mothers.

Data collection through the checklist, regarding the level of compliance with growth and development control, shows that 44.9% of mothers do not comply with the adequate number of controls of their children under 1 year old.

When correlating the control compliance of growth and development with the perception of the mothers on the promotional preventive activity of nursing, by means of the test Rho de Spearman, pv 0.007 was obtained, representing good association of the variables and being highly significant. In addition, the association demonstrated (Chi-square: pv=0.000 < 0.05), it is accepted a strong and positive relationship between the control of growth and development and the perception of the promotional-preventive activity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRED CONTROL</th>
<th>PROMOTIONAL-PREVENTIVE PERCEPTION</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Favorable</td>
<td>Favorable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complies</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>23.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does not comply</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>23.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1.
Compliance with growth and development control in children under 1 year old and perception of the promotional-preventive activity of nursing.
DISCUSSION

With respect to the relationship between the mothers’ perception of children under 1 year old of preventive nursing activity and compliance with growth and development control, it was determined that there is a significant relationship between the variables. Mothers’ perception of the promotional preventive activity of nursing in the CRED clinic is mostly unfavorable or moderately favorable. Even although the majority comply with an adequate number of controls, there is a high percentage of non-compliance.

These results coincide with the studies carried out by Guinea L. and Maritza F. (Peru, 2016), the results of which were that 53% of the parents had a moderately favorable perception of the way in which the nurse attended, also these results coincide with what was mentioned by Guevara S. (Peru. 2013), the result of which was that 31% of mothers had an average favorable level; as well as Penao M. (Peru, 2013), found that approximately half of the mothers comply with the controls of their children under 1 year old.

It is important to emphasize the importance of community nursing work for the achievement of the objectives and proposals established by MINSA. This will depend fundamentally on the actions and activities that are carried out with a preventive and promotional approach at the first level of health care, prioritizing the care of the child population under its care. It can be assumed that mothers are not entirely happy with the work the nurse does in the CRED clinic, so this may be an explanation for why they do not regularly take their children to check-ups, increasing the lack of coverage, leaving their children at risk of lacking the benefits of these controls such as: early detection of developmental deficiencies in their different areas both motor, coordination, language or social; detection of global malnutrition, acute malnutrition or chronic malnutrition; among others, which translate into biopsychosocial well-being, which is essential to obtain healthy children without negative repercussions in the future.

Therefore, it is necessary to adopt different strategies aimed at promoting promotional preventive nursing activities, ensuring that the controls are carried out with the appropriate regularity and periodicity.

Conflicts of interests: The author declare that there is no conflicts of interests.


