

DETERMINANTS OF MATERNAL-FETAL ATTACHMENT: A SCOPING REVIEW

C.S. van den Aardwegh¹, F.F. Bakker¹, R. Kok², E.A.P. Steegers¹, M. Rousian¹, A.G.M.G.J. Mulders¹

1. Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Erasmus MC, University Medical Center - Sophia Children's Hospital, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. 2. Department of Psychology, Education and Child Studies, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

EP09.56

Background

Maternal-fetal attachment (MFA) is the emotional bond between pregnant women and their unborn baby

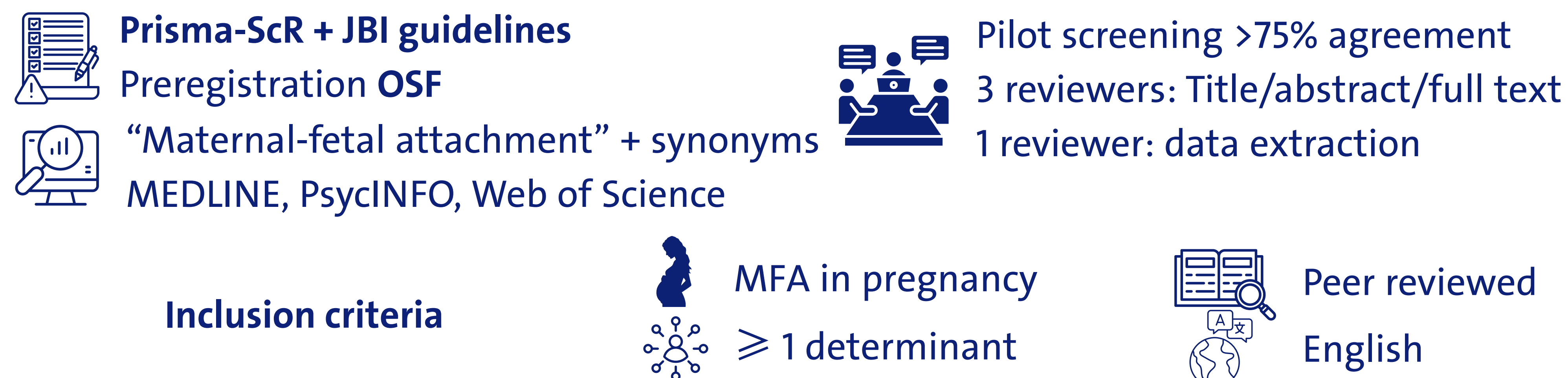
- Concerns about fetus's wellbeing
- Desire to care for the unborn baby
- Expectations about baby's character
- Ability to imagine the baby's appearance

Periconceptional maternal health and lifestyle is associated with **optimal maternal and fetal health**. Stronger MFA is associated with healthier maternal behavior: improved diet, smoking cessation and greater engagement with prenatal care. However, developing MFA during the first trimester can be challenging, because the fetus is not physically visible and fetal movements cannot yet be perceived. Limited interventions to strengthen MFA in early pregnancy are available. A possible target therefore might be MFA.

Measuring MFA with questionnaires like the Maternal-Fetal Attachment Scale (**MFAS**) or the Maternal Antenatal Attachment Scale (**MAAS**).

Aim: Systematically map all determinants influencing maternal-fetal attachment (MFA) during pregnancy as guide for development of interventions to implement in clinical care.

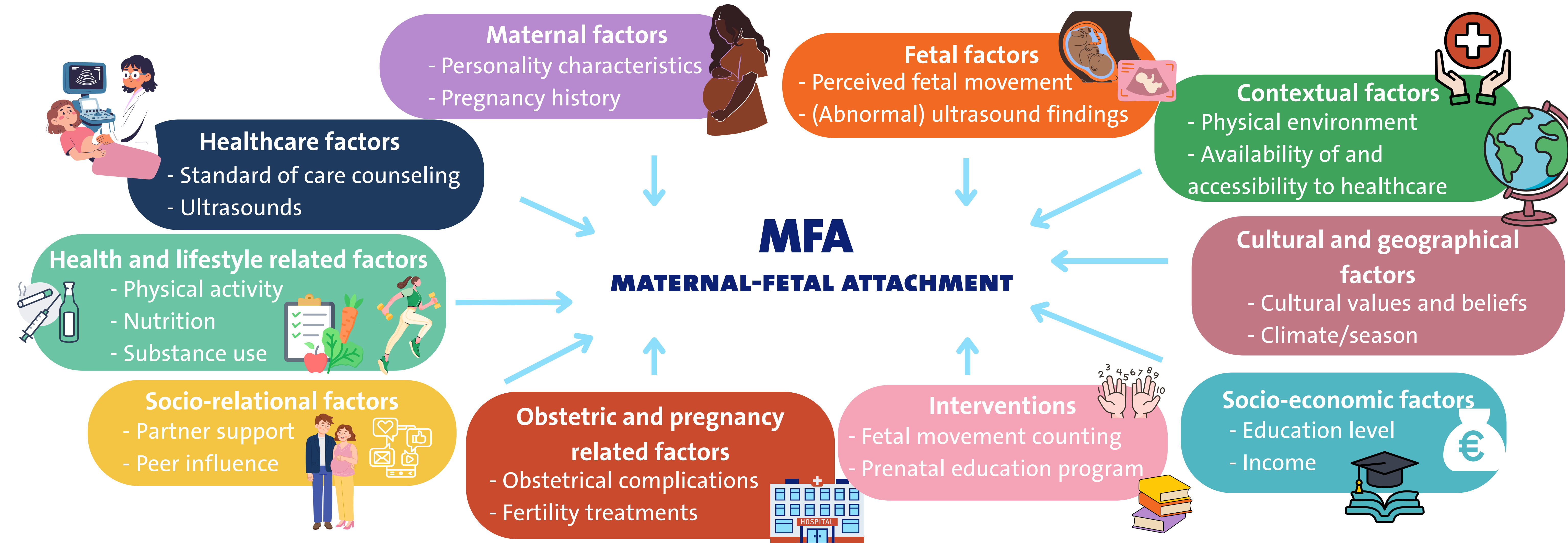
Methods



Results

A total of 3535 articles were identified and screened based on title and abstract, of which 2765 articles were excluded. The remaining 743 articles were assessed for eligibility through full text screening.

Full text analysis is ongoing



Discussion



Key message
Identified determinants influence MFA and are targets for interventions and guide the development of a future RCT.

Contact details

C.S. (Lotte) van den Aardwegh
MD, PhD candidate
c.vandenaardwegh@erasmusmc.nl

