Box 5

Clinical features of postpartum psychosis

- Onset usually early in the postpartum period, within the first two weeks
- The clinical picture often changes rapidly, with wide fluctuations in the intensity of symptoms and severe swings of mood, between elation and depression
- A wide variety of psychotic phenomena such as delusions and hallucinations, the content of which is often related to the new child
- Disturbance of consciousness marked by confusion, bewilderment or perplexity