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BREAST FEEDING AND HUMAN MILK USE IN THE NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

Breast milk is considered the ideal nutrition for full-term infants. Its advantages for the feeding of preterm infants have received increasing attention. Described benefits for premature infants include prevention of infection, a reduction in the rate and severity of necrotizing enterocolitis and retinopathy of prematurity, and a possible beneficial effect on later intelligence. Because of infant immaturity and/or neonatal morbidity, most mothers of very low birth weight infants (VLBW <1500 g) need to express breast milk for weeks and sometimes months before their infant is able to nurse at the breast. Rates of successful lactation for mothers of preterm infants, especially VLBW infants, are low. We will explore ways to improve and sustain breast milk feeding for infants admitted to our NICU and possibly to postnatal ward. Breast milk feeding protocol for improvement must be written and implemented. It should also be monitored to assess the magnitude of improvement and compliance. This was NICU quality improvement project which faced many difficulties.

Biography

Fawaz T Kashlan, MD is a Doctor primarily located in Peoria, IL. His specialties include Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine and Pediatrics. He is an experienced Neonatologist with a demonstrated history of working in the hospital & health care industry. He is skilled in Clinical Research, Customer Service, Pediatrics, and Neonatal Intensive Care.

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