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## Frequency of breastfeeding, bilirubin levels and re-admission for jaundice in neonates

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Inadequate breastfeeding jaundice is considered as one of the significant problems in neonates whereby 85 percent of infants are readmitted to hospital for this condition. High breastfeeding frequency, however may be able to prevent the problem. This descriptive research explored and compared bilirubin levels and re-admission for jaundice in neonates, who have different frequency of breastfeeding during the first two weeks of life. The samples were 100 mothers and full-term neonates who were admitted to the general and private postpartum units at Ramathibodi Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand from February to April 2018. The transcutaneous bilirubin levels of the neonates were recorded at 24, 48 and 72 hours after birth. Breastfeeding frequency was recorded every day for a total of 14 consecutive days. The re-admission for jaundice was obtained by telephone call on day 6, 9, 12 and 14 after birth. For analysis, the samples were assigned into two groups according to their mean breastfeeding frequency during the first two weeks of life. The low frequency of breastfeeding group was breastfed <eight times/day, and the high frequency of breastfeeding group was breastfed ≥eight times/day. The bilirubin levels and re-admission for jaundice of the neonates in the low frequency of breastfeeding group was higher than the high frequency of breastfeeding group with statistical significance ( $p < .001$  and  $p < .01$ , respectively). Providing education and encouragement for mothers with emphasis on giving high breastfeeding frequency at least eight times/day may help prevent inadequate breastfeeding jaundice in neonates.

### Biography

Sukanya Kankaew is a Nurse in Ramathibodi School of Nursing, Faculty of Medicine Ramathibodi Hospital at Mahidol University, Thailand. She has completed her Graduation in Nursing Science in Ramathibodi School of Nursing at Mahidol University in 2014. After her education, she has worked as a Neonatal Nurse in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Ramathibodi hospital. She has completed her Master's degree in Nursing Science in Ramathibodi School of Nursing in 2015. She has experience in neonatal nursing especially preterm infant and breastfeeding. Her current research interest is in breastfeeding frequency and neonatal jaundice.

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