

The Relation between Feeding Pattern and Infants' Immune Response

Thesis

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Abstract

Breast-feeding maintains the maternal-fetal immunological link after birth, May favor the transmission of immunocompetence from the mother to her infant, and is considered an important contributory factor to the neonatal immune defense system during a delicate and crucial period for immune development

The aim of this study to compare between exclusive breast feeding in infants versus formula feeding as regards to the immune response by measuring CD4 ,CD8 counts and CD4/CD8 ratio.

The results showed that CD4/CD8 ratio was significantly higher in exclusive breastfed group than exclusive formula fed group and also, there was a significant past history of RTI in both formula and mixed infants in comparison with breastfed infants.

From the study it is concluded that breastfeeding is superior to infant formula feeding because in addition to breast milk's nutritional advantages, it protects against infections.

Key words:

Breast feeding

Formula feeding

Immune response