

INTRODUCTION

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Breast-feeding has advantages in terms of psychosocial aspects, maternal considerations and infant factors (Berger, 1981). A normal full-term infant can usually be breastfed with only minor adjustment problems, even without the support of medical expertise (Lawrence, 1985). This essay is concerned with feeding problems in the newborn infant and the management of these problems. According to Hanafy (1981), the infant feeding problems are classified into problems related to the mother and others related to the infant.

The problems related to the mother include, the obstetric complications (caesarean section, toxemia, venous thrombosis and pulmonary embolism), Maternal infections (urinary tract infections, group B.B. haemolytic streptococcal infections, tuberculosis, leprosy, listeriosis, Bacterial diarrhea, Rubella, Herpesvirus, mumps, Hepatitis, B, toxoplasmosis, parasites as giardia), Maternal problems with special reference to diabetes mellitus and the infant of diabetic mother, thyroid disease, cystic fibrosis, malignancy, smoking, renal transplantation. Other problems related to the mother are breast and nipple diseases, and the drugs and pollutants secreted in the human milk (Lawrence 1985, Rohr et al., 1984). The problems related to the infant are classified according to the birth-weight into low-birth weight infants problems (premature and small for gestational age infant), Postmature infants (Fetal distress and hypoxia) and the problems of full-term infants (Lawrence, 1985). The problems of the full-term infants are either medical problems (such as gastro-intestinal disease, Respiratory illness, inborn errors of metabolism, hypothyroidism, Down's syndrome, hyperbilirubinemia and Jaundice) or problems requiring surgery (as cleft lip, cleft palate, tracheoesophageal fistula, pyloric stenosis, Hirschsprung disease, meconium plug syndrome and meconium ileus, Necrotizing enterocolitis, imperforate anus, gastrointestinal

bleeding). A part of this essay is concerned with artificial feeding problems which are defined by Arneil and Stround (1984) and include infections, neonatal tetany, hyperosmolarity and hypernatremia, cow's milk allergy. Also, a part of the study include the feeding Methods of the newborn at high risk.