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# The clinical importance of growth charts

**Mohamad El Said Bakheet**

146This study was undertaken to describe the clinical importance of growth charts. It is very important to use the growth charts in our M.C.H. centers for early detection of malnutrition diseases. It is also important to use it in studying the effect of acute infection on the infant's growth. With growth charts specially weight charts, it is very easy to identify the infant with malnutrition not only by the auxiliary health workers but also by the illiterate mother. Two groups of infants under 1 year were studied: 1-The diarrhoeal group which included 31 infants. 2-The diarrhoeal group which included 29 infants. We noticed that the mean weights, heights, midarm circumferences and head circumference of the diarrhoeal group were less than the mean of the chest infection group from the 2<sup>nd</sup> month of infant's life, but, in the 8<sup>th</sup> month the gap was increased due to the higher percentage of diarrhoeal around this age, this is well illustrated in fig I, II, III and IV. And also in tables I, III, IV, V, and VI. We compare between the pattern of infants feeding and their mean weight, midarm circumference.