

Establishing a Knowledge Centre for Breastfeeding Infants with Special Needs



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Breastfeeding in spite of

Breastfeeding is not always easy with premature babies or ill newborns, nor with breastfed babies admitted to hospital during the first year of life. They may have problems establishing breastfeeding and/or maintaining breastfeeding. Rigshospitalet, the Copenhagen University Hospital, has therefore successfully established "The Knowledge Centre for Breastfeeding Infants with Special Needs" in 2005. First as a 3-year project, but from 2008 the activities of the Knowledge Centre was made permanent. The Knowledge Centre is located beside the NICU, but cooperates with all pediatric wards.



Premature boy GA 25 weeks, now 2 months past term
CPAP 10 cm, FiO2 0,88,
breastfed daytime, tube-fed at night

Research

The knowledge centre identifies areas of research and brings up to date the latest knowledge to this critical topic. From 2008, half of the time is for research.

On-going research and next research topic:

- Extremely premature infants' reactions on skin-to-skin contact.
- Breastfeeding premature infants still in need of CPAP-treatment

The Knowledge Centre is interested in establishing an international research network in breastfeeding infants with special needs for mutual inspiration and experience exchange. Please contact Ragnhild Maastrup at the conference or by e-mail.

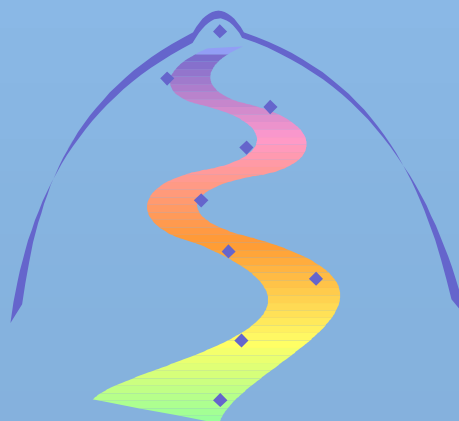
Knowledge

The Knowledge Centre gathers, systematizes and develops knowledge and experiences not only at the Rigshospitalet, but also on the national and international level as well. Together with literature searches, this is the basis for guidelines for breastfeeding infants with special needs.

In cooperation with the neonatal and paediatric departments the Knowledge Centre develops practices with Rigshospitalet so that **care, treatment and counselling**, in relation to breastfeeding infants with special needs, will be **uniform, evidence based and of high quality**.

Conclusion

The homepage of the Knowledge Centre has ensured that knowledge will be shared throughout the nation. Guidelines for breastfeeding infants with special needs and parent information flyers can be found on the homepage together with "The Milky Way" and other information. The homepage is primarily in Danish but some information in English is included.



"The Milky Way"
The breastfeeding process for premature infants

Breastfeeding results in Denmark

Healthy term infants:

98,5% initiate breastfeeding (2000)
59% are exclusively breastfed at 4-months of age (2000)

Premature infants:

69 - 78% are exclusively breastfed at discharge (PMA 37-40 weeks) (2005 and 2004)



Premature girl GA 24+1, PMA 26+3, 680 grams.
Skin-to-skin for 6½ hours this day



Premature girl GA 26+5, PMA 27+3, 775 grams.
Second breastfeeding experience

www.ammevidenscenter.dk

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