

BREASTFEEDING PRACTICE AMONG CHINESE MOTHERS IN KUALA LUMPUR

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ABSTRACT

In this study, the purpose is to describe breastfeeding practice among Chinese mothers in one of private hospital in Klang Valley. It aims to describe mothers' characteristics that affect breastfeeding, type of infant feeding practices and to identify factors influencing in breastfeeding.

Samples of 50 local Chinese mothers were used to collect data. Sampling criteria include mothers was stayed at least 2 days in hospital with no complication during antenatal and postnatal with the condition of baby is healthy.

This study had some limitation. It was based on purpose sampling, size sampling is small and questionnaire only in English version. Hence, it could not be generalized as a whole population of Chinese mothers in hospital.

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The methodology used was a cross sectional survey using questionnaire given to 50 mothers who give birth in the hospital during 1 august to 14 august 2008. All the data were process in frequency distribution and some of them using crosstab.

This study found that about 92% of mothers attempted to breastfeeding, but 38% of Chinese mothers already used combine feeding during the first two days of life. This was slight decrease in initiate of breastfeeding compared to past studies in Malaysia.

Several factors were found to be related in influencing mother's decision to breastfeeding. Factor such as age, educational attainment, type of present delivery are non modifiable factors. However, factors such as awareness of breastfeeding benefits, advice from health care provider, previous breastfeeding experience and attitudes are potentially modifiable.

Efforts aimed at promoting breastfeeding among Chinese mothers needs to accountant these modifiable factors into consideration as intervention to promote breastfeeding