**TITLE: Poor weight gain and its predictors among preterm neonates admitted at Muhimbili National hospital in Dar-es-salaam, Tanzania from September 2018 to February 2019**

**Authors**

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## Supplementary Table 1(a). Attributes of feeding practices among preterm neonates

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Variables.** | **N** | **%** |
| **Method of feeding initiated** |  |  |
| Cup | 122 | 53.7 |
| Tube | 77 | 33.9 |
| Breastfeeding | 28 | 12.4 |
|  |  |  |
| **Frequency of feeding** |  |  |
| Every 2 hours | 20 | 10.1 |
| Every 3 hours | 207 | 89.9 |
|  |  |  |
| **Time to initiation of first feed** |  |  |
| 1st day of life | 33 | 14.5 |
| 2nd day of life | 122 | 53.8 |
| 3rd day of life | 55 | 24.2 |
| >3 days of life | 17 | 7.5 |
|  |  |  |
| **Time to full feeds (days)** |  |  |
| 0-7 | 80 | 35.2 |
| 8-14 | 93 | 41.0 |
| 15-21 | 39 | 17.2 |
| 22+ | 15 | 6.6 |
| **Type of milk fed upon admission** |  |  |
| Breast milk | 214 | 94.3 |
| Formula milk | 4 | 1.8 |
| Mixed | 9 | 3.9 |

## Supplementary Table 1(b). Caretaker’s knowledge on feeding practices.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Variables.** | **N** | **%** |
| **Ever received counselling on feeding** |  |  |
| Yes | 46 | 20.2 |
| No | 181 | 79.8 |
| **Place mother received the counselling (n=46)** |  |  |
| During ANC | 1 | 2.2 |
| Delivery Hospital | 3 | 6.5 |
| Neonatal Unit | 39 | 84.8 |
| Home | 3 | 6.5 |
| **Provider of counselling (n=46)** |  |  |
| Doctor | 3 | 6.5 |
| Nurse | 41 | 89.1 |
| Other  **Knowledge variables.** | 2 | 4.4 |
| **Type of Milk preferable for feeding** |  |  |
| Breast milk | 192 | 84.6 |
| Formula | 1 | 0.4 |
| Don’t know | 34 | 15.0 |
| **Optimal duration of EBF** |  |  |
| 3 months | 1 | 0.4 |
| 4 months | 2 | 0.9 |
| 6 months | 183 | 80.6 |
| Don’t know | 41 | 18.1 |
| **Preferred method for feeding** |  |  |
| Cup | 56 | 24.7 |
| Tube | 28 | 12.3 |
| Breastfeeding | 143 | 63.0 |
| **Time after birth to initiate feeding** |  |  |
| First 24 hours | 139 | 61.2 |
| 48 hours | 35 | 15.4 |
| 72 hours | 5 | 2.2 |
| Don’t know | 48 | 21.2 |
| **Frequency of feeding** |  |  |
| Every 2 hours | 34 | 15.0 |
| Every 3 hours | 160 | 70.5 |
| Every 4 hours | 3 | 1.3 |
| Don’t know  **Knowledge on feeding**  Low  Moderate  High | 30  61  76  90 | 13.2  26.9  33.5  39.6 |

*EBF- Exclusive breast-feeding*