META-ANALYSIS: THE EFFECT OF EARLY BREASTFEEDING INITIATION ON THE HYPOTHERMIA IN INFANTS

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ABSTRACT

Background: Birth and immediate postpartum period pose many challenges for the newborn. For years, breast feeding has been known to be an important intervention in developing countries to reduce infant mortality from infectious diseases and malnutrition. However, less attention has been paid to the role of breast feeding in deaths during the first month of life. This study aimed to examine the effect of early breastfeeding initiation on the hypothermia in infants.

Subjects and Method: A systematic review was conducted using the PubMed, Science Direct, Google Scholar and Springerlink, published from 2009 to 2021. The following search terms were used: ("early initiation breastfeeding") AND ("neonatal" OR "infant") AND ("hypothermia") AND ("cross-sectional") AND ("adjusted odds ratio"). The systematic review was carried out according to the PRISMA guidelines. The inclusion criteria were English full-text, cross-sectional study, and reported adjusted Odds Ratio (aOR). Data analyses were performed using RevMan 5.3.

Results: A total of 10 articles from Ethiopia, Uganda, India, dan Nigeria were eligible for quantitative meta-analysis. This study indicated high heterogeneity between groups ($I^2 = 82\%$). A random effect model showed that early early initiation of breastfeeding reduced the risk of hypothermia in infants (aOR= 0.37; 95% CI= 0.24 to 0.58; $p < 0.001$).

Conclusion: Early initiation of breastfeeding reduces the risk of hypothermia in infants.

Keywords: early initiation of breastfeeding, hypothermia, meta-analysis

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