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Predicting and optimizing 'coming to volume'

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Professor of Pediatrics
April 11, 2024

Disclosures

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- I have no real or apparent conflicts of interest related to the content of this presentation.
- The following terms are used throughout this presentation for simplicity: *mother*, *woman/women*, *mother's own milk*, *breastmilk*, and *breastfeeding* for anatomic clarity and brevity in this lecture.
- All concepts discussed here are applicable to transgender, nonbinary and non-birthing people who lactate and/or chest feed.
- The term "*mother's own milk*" is intended to distinguish milk provided by a parent from donor human milk, knowing that not all human milk may come from a parent who identifies as a mother.
- We acknowledge that it is important to utilize a patient's preferred pronouns and other preferred terminology when addressing patients directly regarding their lactation experience.

Outline

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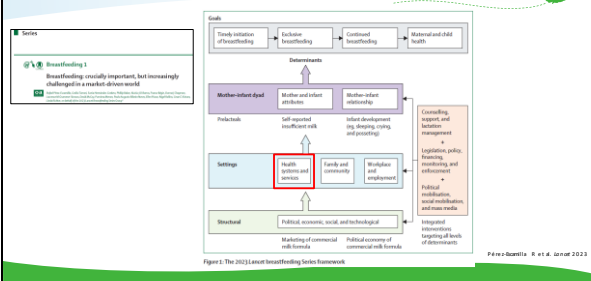
- Lactation physiology
- To review coming to volume and its association with later lactation outcomes
- To review lactation practices in the early postpartum period associated with coming to volume
- To identify milk biomarkers that may be associated with coming to volume

Example Case



- Ms. J is a 23 year old G1P0 with preeclampsia and obesity (BMI 32) who was admitted at 25 5/7 weeks gestation and started on magnesium and labetalol and received 2 doses of betamethasone.
- After 48 hours, due to rising BP she underwent urgent cesarean delivery and gave birth to a 26 0/7 week infant girl, weight 730g who was admitted to the NICU on CPAP.
- Ms. J received 24 hours of magnesium postpartum.
- She pumped for the first time 4 hours after delivery, then again at 12 hours post delivery (DOL 1).
- On infant's DOL 2, she pumped 3 times and produced drops of milk.
- On DOL 8 infant developed sepsis and was intubated.
- On DOL 22 infant was extubated and placed on CPAP
- Infant discharged home at DOL 92 at corrected age 39 1/7 weeks, weight 2900g

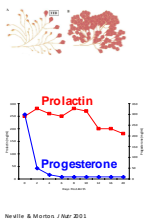
Socioecological Model



Lactation Physiology




- Secretory Differentiation (Lactogenesis 1)**
 - During pregnancy breast undergoes significant changes due to multiple hormones (estrogen, progesterone, prolactin, oxytocin, human growth hormone, glucocorticoids, insulin):
 - Increased blood flow
 - Mammary epithelial cells differentiate into lactocytes
 - Aveolar and ductal proliferation
 - Breast development continues to occur until delivery (incomplete in preterm)
 - Mid-pregnancy: starts to make colostrum – but secretory activity limited by high progesterone which inhibits prolactin
- Secretory Activation (Lactogenesis 2)**
 - Triggered by post-partum hormonal changes:
 - Progesterone falls
 - Inhibition of Prolactin ends - with insulin → closure of tight junctions (TJ)
 - Infant suckling increases secretion of prolactin and oxytocin



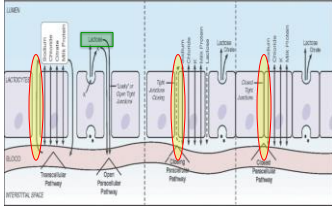
Health & Women, June 2011
 Reproductive endocrinology by Shyngul, 2nd Edition, AM
 Medical Publishing & Distribution, Inc. 2011
 Health & Women, June 2011

Review
Measures of Secretory Activation for Research and Practice: An Integrative Review
Christa-Monica Peralta, Janet C. Engstrom, Rebecca Hildner, Amy L. Fink, and Tracy Stuenkel



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Origin of Secretory Activation



- **Tight junction closure** prevents lactose from exiting the lumen via open paracellular pathways
- Lactose = primary osmotic component draws water into lumen
- Secretory activation or milk "coming in" - typically within 72 hours after term delivery

Medina-Peralta et al. *Breastfeed Med* 2020

Symposium: Human Lactogenesis II: Mechanisms, Determinants and Consequences

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Physiology and Endocrine Changes Underlying Human Lactogenesis II^{1,2}
Margaret C. Neville^{1*} and Jane Morton²
¹Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver, CO 80202
²Stanford University School of Medicine, Vagelos Medical Foundation, San Francisco, CA 94305

Failed lactogenesis

- **Preglandular:** hormonal causes, such as retained placenta or lack of pituitary prolactin
- **Glandular:** surgical procedures, such as reduction mammoplasty or insufficient mammary tissue
- **Postglandular:** ineffective or infrequent milk removal

Neville and Morton. *J Nutrition* 2003

Milk Synthesis and Removal in Mothers of Preterm infants

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- Secretory differentiation is incomplete at the time of preterm birth
- Disrupted secretory differentiation with inflammatory processes (obesity, pre-eclampsia, diabetes and other metabolic health problems)
- Mothers viewed as "too sick to pump" → not encouraged or assisted with pumping
- Breast pump dependency = the pump completely replaces the infant for MOM removal and the regulation of lactation processes
- Maternal pumping behaviors unlinked from infant feeding
- Insufficient MOM volume are often traced to the first 14 days postpartum

Medina-Peralta et al. *Breastfeed Med* 2020

Secretory differentiation in NICU mothers and maternal conditions



Delayed Lactogenesis

- Premature delivery
- Cesarean delivery
- Maternal blood loss
- Overweight/Obesity
- Diabetes mellitus
- Maternal hypertension
- Prolonged bedrest
- Duration and stress of labor

Other Barriers

- Mother-infant separation
- Stress associated with NICU
- Lack of skin to skin (STS)
- Breast pump dependence
- Cost or lack of equipment
- Lack of lactation training/ availability
- Maternal health issues
- Limited maternity leave
- Transportation issues
- Competing responsibilities
- Lack of knowledge
- Lack of family support

Norris et al. Am J Clin Nutr 2010
 Hunt, J. Maternity and Women's Health 2007
 Marshall et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab 2010
 Hernandez et al. PLoS ONE 2012
 Parker and Patel. Sem Perinatol 2017

Example Case



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NICU Lactation Strategies



- Parent education – prenatally and postnatally
- Staff education
- Access to NICU-specific and culturally adapted lactation expertise
- Early milk expression
- Frequent pumping +/- hand expression
- Monitoring milk volumes during the first 14 days postpartum to achieve at least 500ml/day (coming to volume or CTV)
- Skin-to-skin (STS)
- Successful transition to direct breastfeeding



Maggi-Stratton, J. Perinatol 2012; Strickell, M. S. Sem Perinatol 2012; Parker and Patel. Sem Perinatol 2017
 Nelson, K. B. Breastfeeding 20: Obstetrics and Gynecology, Clinical Practice, 10th ed. Elsevier; 2019.
 Baskin, C. et al. Breastfeeding in the NICU. Sem Perinatol 2017; Chalmers, M. S. et al. 2016. Lactation. Perinatol 2015; Parkman, J. et al. 2015.
 Patel, S. et al. 2016. Pumping in the NICU. Breastfeeding in the NICU. Sem Perinatol 2017; Chalmers, M. S. et al. 2016.

Outline



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Pumping Influence on Breast Programming



Proceedings of the Nutrition Society (2015), 54, 403-406 403

Breast-feeding: matching supply with demand in human lactation
 BY C. J. WILDE,¹ A. PRENTICE¹ AND M. PEAKER¹
¹Warwick Research Institute, Apt 6, 6th Floor,
¹MRC Diets Nutrition Unit, Cambridge CB2 3EJ

Milk Volume on Day 4 and Income Predictive of Lactation Adequacy at 6 Weeks of Mothers of Nonnursing Preterm Infants
 Pamela D. Hill, PhD, RN, CBE, FAAN, Janet C. Adigo, PhD

Original research

Short-term rate of milk synthesis and expression interval of preterm mothers
 Cheng-Wei Lai,¹ *Alfonso Resa,¹ Leon H. Mikoulas,² Jacqueline C. Kent,¹ Karen Symons,¹ Peter E. Dean-Parkinson,¹ Quana Gledhill¹



Objective: To determine the impact of the pumping regimes of women with preterm infants on:
 (1) daily milk production
 (2) short-term rate of milk synthesis during early lactation

Subjects: Mothers of preterm infants (n=25) recorded start time, finish time and expression volumes from every breast expression on days 10, 15–20 postpartum.

Results: Expressing more often than five times per day did not result in a significant increase in daily milk production

Lai et al. Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed 2020

Original research
OPEN ACCESS
Short-term rate of milk synthesis and expression interval of preterm mothers
 Cheng Shi et al.¹, Satoru Imai,² Laura M. Winkler,³ Jacqueline C. Kent,¹ Karen Stevens,¹ Peter Edwin Hartmann,¹ Dorcas Gidycz¹

Milk volume per expression per breast increased for intervals between expressions of between 2 and 6 hours then reached a plateau when the interval between expression was 7 hours or longer

The short-term rate of milk synthesis decreased as the interval between expressions increased until about 7.5 hours at which point it began to increase

Lai et al., Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed 2020

Journal of Perinatology
ARTICLE
Early pumping frequency and coming to volume for mothers' own milk feeding in hospitalized infants
 Mehdi D. Moghadas,¹ Caroline Johnson,¹ Anshu Singh,¹ Shreshth Kumar,¹ Daniel Gaudin,¹ and C. Michael O'Keefe¹

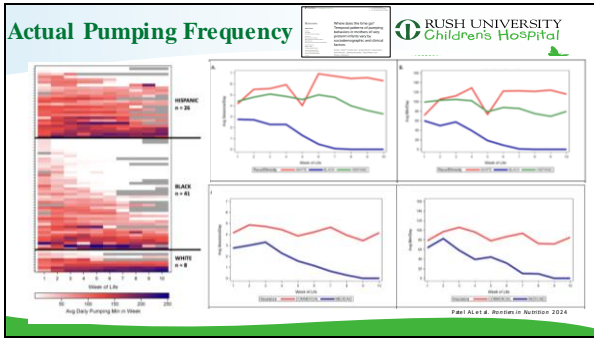
Moghadam et al. / Perinatology 2023

Pumping in the First 5 Days
 RUSH UNIVERSITY Children's Hospital
 Clarice Medina-Poolinski, PhD

Predictor	Cumulative MOM volume in first 7 days postpartum			
	b	SE	95% CI	p
Model 1: Cumulative hours pumped first 5 days postpartum	1278.0	590.5	66.4, 2489.7	0.039*

• Mothers of preterm infants
 • Each additional hour pumping in the first 5 days → additional 1278 mL cumulative MOM volume in first 7 days

Unpublished data courtesy of Dr. Medina-Poolinski and Meier



Example Case – Ms. J Scenario 1

- Does not CTV
- Is not discharged on any MOM feedings

	Number of pumping sessions	MOM volume (ml)	Infant's ordered feeding volume
DOL1	2	0	8
DOL2	3	2	8
DOL3	4	4	8
DOL4	5	15	8
DOL5	3	40	30
DOL6	4	100	52
DOL7 / wk1	3	45	72
DOL8	3	60	88
DOL9	5	110	104
DOL10	5	160	112
DOL11	6	250	120
DOL12	5	220	120
DOL13	4	180	120
DOL14 / wk2	6	280	128
DOL21 / wk3	4	210	136
DOL28 / wk4	4	150	144
DOL56 / wk8	2	80	208
DOL70 / wk10	1	20	400
DOL92 / Discharge	0	0	493

Example Case – Ms. J Scenario 2

- Does CTV
- Is discharged on MOM feedings

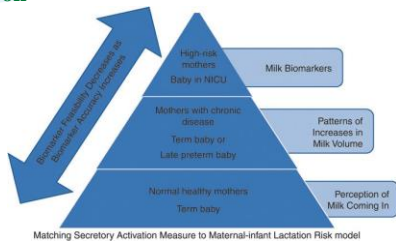
	Number of pumping sessions	MOM volume (ml)	Infant's ordered feeding volume
DOL1	2	0	8
DOL2	3	2	8
DOL3	5	4	8
DOL4	6	30	8
DOL5	6	70	30
DOL6	6	180	52
DOL7 / wk1	6	300	72
DOL8	5	420	88
DOL9	5	520	104
DOL10	6	700	112
DOL11	4	580	120
DOL12	5	660	120
DOL13	5	600	120
DOL14 / wk2	6	800	128
DOL21 / wk3	6	960	136
DOL28 / wk4	5	900	144
DOL56 / wk8	5	800	208
DOL70 / wk10	5	800	400
DOL92 / Discharge	5	920	493

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Potential Markers of Secretory Activation



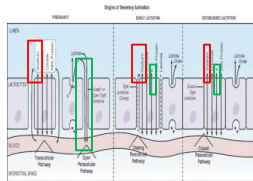
Matching Secretory Activation Measure to Maternal-infant Lactation Risk model

Medina-Pastorini et al. *Breastfeed Med* 2020

Measures of Secretory Activation for Research and Practice: An Integrative Review



- Four transcellular pathways involved in milk synthesis and secretion of milk components across the cellular membrane
- A single paracellular pathway bypasses the epithelial cell → direct communication between maternal blood and milk
- The paracellular pathway is open at birth → gradually closes during secretory activation → continued milk secretion
- The paracellular pathway reopens during inflammation (mastitis) and involution (weaning)
- Over the first days postpartum:
 - ↑ lactose, citrate, and potassium (K) levels in MOM
 - ↓ total protein and sodium (Na) levels in MOM



Medina-Pastorini et al. *Breastfeed Med* 2020

CLINICAL AND LABORATORY OBSERVATIONS www.pediatrics.com - THE JOURNAL OF PEDIATRICS

The Relation between Breast Milk Sodium to Potassium Ratio and Maternal Report of a Milk Supply Concern

Musick-Mullen, MD, PhD, Ditt, A, Wagner, MD, Gardner, J, Sherry, MD, Kirby, G, Orsini, PhD, and Lavin, K, *Maternal Report of a Milk Supply Concern*

Subjects: 196 first-time mothers of term, healthy, singleton infants and exclusively breastfeeding at day 7

Primary objective:
Determine if elevated Na:K at day 7 is significantly more prevalent in mothers reporting a milk supply concern

Table II. Logistic regression model predicting the odds of elevated breast milk Na:K according to presence of a milk supply concern among mothers exclusively breastfeeding on day 7^a

Milk supply concern at day 7 ^b	Category	Number	Number (%) with elevated breast milk Na:K	Elevated breast milk Na:K, OR (95% CI)	
				Model 1 ^c	Model 2 ^d
No		160	33 (21)	1.0 (reference)	1.0 (reference)
Yes		36	15 (42)	2.7 (1.3-5.9)	3.4 (1.5-7.9)

^aDefined as maternal report of exclusive breastfeeding during the 24 hours before the day 7 interview.
^bDefined as breast milk Na:K > 75th percentile (>0.80) on day 7 for the analytic subset.
^cSP = .01.
^dSP = .003, adjusted for ethnic group.

Musick et al. / Pediatrics 2017

CLINICAL AND LABORATORY OBSERVATIONS www.pediatrics.com - THE JOURNAL OF PEDIATRICS

The Relation between Breast Milk Sodium to Potassium Ratio and Maternal Report of a Milk Supply Concern

Musick-Mullen, MD, PhD, Ditt, A, Wagner, MD, Gardner, J, Sherry, MD, Kirby, G, Orsini, PhD, and Lavin, K, *Maternal Report of a Milk Supply Concern*

Secondary objective:
Determine whether elevated Na:K at day 7 is predictive of stopping breastfeeding before day 60

Table III. Logistic regression model predicting stopped breastfeeding by day 60 according to day 7 breast milk Na:K status among mothers exclusively breastfeeding at day 7^a

Breast milk Na:K at day 7	Category	No. (%) stopped breastfeeding	Stopped breastfeeding by day 60, Odds Ratio (95% confidence interval)			
			Model 1 ^b	Model 2 ^c	Model 3 ^d	Model 4 ^e
Not elevated		146 (7)	1.0 (ref)	1.0 (ref)	1.0 (ref)	1.0 (ref)
Elevated		48 (17)	2.9 (1.1-7.8)	3.0 (1.1-8.6)	3.1 (1.1-8.9)	3.3 (1.1-9.7)

^aDefined as maternal report of exclusive breastfeeding during the 24 hours before the day 7 interview.
^bElevated breast milk Na:K defined as > 75th percentile (>0.80) for the analytic subset.
^cSP = .08, unadjusted odds ratio.
^dSP = .04, adjusted for maternal age.
^eSP = .01, adjusted for maternal age and health insurance status.
^fSP = .02, adjusted for infant feeding Intention category, maternal age, and health insurance status.

Musick et al. / Pediatrics 2017

ORIGINAL ARTICLES www.pediatrics.com

Associations of Secretory Activation Breast Milk Biomarkers with Breastfeeding Outcome Measures

Aho, J, Espinoza-Orens, PhD, Wu, C, Kelly, MD, Bahr, MD, Luccas-Caceres, MD, Ahn, H, Jackson-Priest, MD, Wu, W, Decker, MD, Orsini, PhD, Wang, MD, Kirby, G, Gardner, J, Sherry, MD, Orsini, PhD, and Lavin, K, *Secretory Activation Biomarkers and Breastfeeding Outcomes*

Objective: To explore associations between day 10 postpartum (D10) secretory activation biomarkers and breastfeeding outcome measures

Table III. Summary of maternal and infant demographic, clinical variables and feeding outcomes

Demographic/Clinical	n (%)
Maternal	196 (100)
Age (M ± SD)	26.4 (3.1)
Race/ethnicity	28 (14.3)
Maternal education	30 (15.3)
Partner income	27 (13.7)
Any college education	30 (15.3)
Child care arrangement	27 (13.7)
Maternal history	27 (13.7)
Partner history	27 (13.7)
Infant	196 (100)
Sex (M/F)	101/95
1st born	101 (51.5)
Overweight at birth	30 (15.3)
Low birth weight	30 (15.3)
Length	50 (25.5)
Weight	46 (23.5)
Head circumference	30 (15.3)
Adjusted age at birth (mo)	38.1 (1.2)
Day length (hr)	23 (11.7)
Day length (min)	13 (6.6)
Light sleep	20 (10.2)
Dark sleep	17 (8.7)
Supper	11 (5.6)
Respiratory	11 (5.6)
Exclusively breastfeeding during hospitalization	80 (40.8)
Exclusively breastfeeding at 1 mo	60 (30.6)
Exclusively breastfeeding (3M) weeks > 10 = < 10	60 (30.6)
Exclusively breastfeeding (3M) weeks > 10 = < 10	60 (30.6)
Exclusively breastfeeding (3M) weeks > 10 = < 10	60 (30.6)
Any breastfeeding > 10	77 (39.3)

Figure 8. Rate of regular secretory activation biomarkers by feeding outcome.

Esquivas-Zwiers, et al. / Pediatrics 2023

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Milk Biomarkers of Secretory Activation in Breast Pump-Dependent Mothers of Preterm Infants: An Integrative Review

Lambert, Doreen^{1,2}, Anderson, Sherrill³, Berman, Elise⁴, O'Brien, Cecelia⁵, Parkes, Jodie⁶, Taylor, Ian⁷, Waters, Andrew⁸, Williams, Nicole⁹, and Thomas, K. Megan¹⁰

Are milk biomarkers affected by problems associated with preterm delivery?

- preterm birth = interrupted secretory differentiation
- lactation risk factors
- Inflammation
- maternal stress
- maternal health complications
- breast pump dependency

Biomarker	Reference range during 24 with direction of change	Direction of change
Lactose (g/L)	3 Days postpartum <3.4	Increases
	6 Days postpartum <5.6	Absent increase day 1 postpartum Peaks day 5 postpartum Increases as fat decreases
Clotite (g/L)	3 Days postpartum <0.24	Increases immediately before copious milk secretion
	6 Days postpartum <0.92	Increases in proportion to milk volume
Sodium (mM)	Transiently 60 on day 1, decreasing to 120 or 130?	Decreases
		Rapidly decreases first 3 days postpartum Precedes increase in milk volume
Potassium (mM)	45.3	Increases
		Paracellular pathway is open, diluting concentrations
Na/K	1.1-1.8	Decreases
	Caipitated all < Normal 10:6 and 10:4 observed	Used as a marker for Na concentration May or may not be additive to Na alone
Total protein, g/L	3 Days postpartum <4.1	Decreases
	6 Days postpartum <2.3	Decreases
Fat, g/L	41.1-7.8	Increases but exhibits high variability

Adapted from Medina-Pastor et al.¹¹
Values of 120 or 130 are overly specific, and represent small sample sizes and differing days postpartum.

Parker et al. Breastfeed Medicine 2028

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Human Milk Biomarkers of Secretory Activation in Breast Pump-Dependent Mothers of Preterm Infants

Hoban, Helen^{1,2}, Lamb, J. Aimee³, Taylor, Ian⁴, Williams, Nicole⁵, O'Brien, Cecelia⁶, Parkes, Jodie⁷, Waters, Andrew⁸, and Thomas, K. Megan⁹

- 16 mothers of preterm infants
- Milk samples collected every 12hr for first 14 days

Characteristic (mean; SD [range] or n (%)) unless otherwise specified	Pumped MDM volume ≥50ml/day achieved CTV n=8 (50%)	Pumped MDM volume <50ml/day did not achieve CTV n=8 (50%)	p
First day with four normal biomarkers (median)	4 (IQR 4-4.5)	9 (IQR 6-11.25)*	0.19
Cumulative pumped MDM volume (mL):			
days 1-5	8028 (IQR 725.7-1188.3)	196.9 (IQR 71.4-219.3)	0.008
Median daily pumped MDM volume (mL):	424.5 (IQR 362.3-497.6)	89.1 (IQR 38.7-156.4)	<0.001
days 1-14	—	—	—
Postpartum day when CTV	6.4 ± 1.8 (4-10)	—	—
Cumulative pumping sessions before CTV	28.8 ± 12.9 (11-52)	13.8 ± 12.4 (0-37)*	0.03
Cumulative pumping sessions: days 1-5	26.3 ± 14.6 (10-52)	—	—
Median daily pumping sessions: days 1-14	6.5 (IQR 4-9)	4 (IQR 3-5)	<0.001
Mothers with mean pumping frequency ≥5 times/day (n=7, 43.8%)	6 (5/7)	1 (1/43)	0.01*
Mothers with mean pumping frequency <5 times/day (n=9, 56.2%)	2 (2/2)	7 (7/8)	—

Hoban et al. Breastfeed Medicine 2018

Country	Location	Sample Size	Study Design	Key Findings
Oregon	Australia	N 22 of 31:35 week N 16 of healthy term	Cross-sectional MDM sample day 5	Term mothers more likely to have all 4 MDM biomarkers normal than preterm mothers Preterm: greater pumped volume if all MDM biomarkers normal
Henderson	Australia	N 50 of 28-34 week	Prospective cohort Daily MDM volume and samples days 1-10	Mothers >28 weeks had increases in MDM volume earlier than mothers <28 week Pumped milk volume was associated with lactose and clotite Mothers who pumped >6 versus <6 times/day had higher lactose concentration
Hoban	USA	N 16 of <33 week	Pilot prospective cohort Daily MDM volume days 1-14 Every 12 hr MDM samples days 1-14	On postpartum day 3, mothers with all 4 MDM biomarkers normal had greater pumped MDM volume compared with those with 2 normal MDM biomarkers
Hoban	USA	N 39 of <33 week	Prospective cohort Daily MDM volume days 1-14 Every 12 hr MDM samples days 1-14	33% mothers achieved CTV Only Na on postpartum day 5 and Na/K on days 3 and 5 predicted CTV
Medina	USA	N 39 of <33 week - 17 BM <27 - 22 BM ≥27	Secondary analysis of Hoban Days 1-7 vs 8-14	During days 1-7, mothers with a BM <27 had a greater rate of decrease in Na and increase in MDM volume but similar Na/K ratios compared to mothers with BM ≥27. No differences in days 8-14
Parker	USA	N 69 of <32 weeks	First 7 days postpartum. Indicators of SA: - Maternal perception - Volume attainment - MDM biomarkers	Compared with normal values in healthy breastfeeding mothers, secretory activation was delayed.

Parker et al. Breastfeed Medicine 2028

Indicators of Secretory Activation in Mothers of Preterm Very Low Birth Weight Infants

Subjects:
69 mothers of VLBW infants (<=32 weeks of GA) during the first 7 days postpartum.

Objective: Compare timing of secretory activation compared using three separate indicators:
1. Maternal perceptions of milk coming in
2. Removing >=20mL of MOM per pump session for two consecutive sessions
3. Normal MOM biomarkers Na and lactose (collected when #2 was met)

Compared with normal values in healthy breastfeeding mothers, secretory activation was delayed.
1. Maternal perception of milk coming in at mean 130.6 – 170.3 hours (5±7 days)
2. Achievement of >=20 mL of pumped MOM volume/session at mean 123.4 – 91.9 hours (5±3 days)
3. Only 42% of mothers had normal Na and lactose at #2 time point
4. Mothers with normal biomarkers had significantly more pumping sessions during Days #5 (4.5-4.8 times/day vs. 3.0 times/day)

Parke et al. J Hum Lact 2023

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Mother's Own Milk Biomarkers Predict Coming to Volume in Pump-Dependent Mothers of Preterm Infants

Objective: To determine associations between serial secretory activation MOM biomarker concentrations from breast pump-dependent mothers of preterm infants to and coming to volume (CTV)

- Viable singleton infant born at gestational age < 33 weeks
- Initiated lactation but MOM had not "come in" yet
- No hormonal contraception or galactagogues for the first 14 days postpartum
- Access to hospital-grade double electric breast pumps in the NICU and at home
- Collected paired MOM volume and samples every 12hr for first 14 days

- 39 mothers (mean GA 28.8 weeks; 67% overweight/obese; 59% nonwhite)
- 33% achieved CTV between postpartum days 6 and 14
- Associated with CTV between days 6-14
 - day 5 Na:K (1 unit decrease in Na:K: OR, 18.7; 95% CI, 1.13-311.41; p=.049)
 - maternal pre-pregnancy BMI (1 unit increase in BMI: OR, 0.88; 95% CI, 0.78-0.99; p=.04)

Hoban et al. J Pediatr 2023

CTV was associated with expected directional changes in all biomarkers

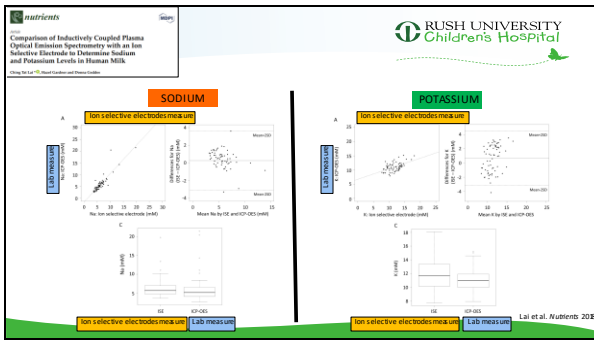
Considerable within and between-mother variability

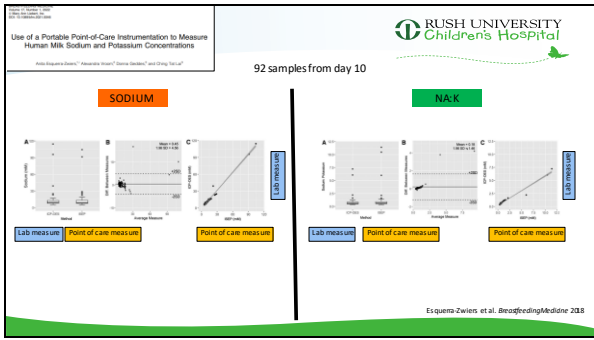
Na and Na:K ratio were most consistent with respect to predicted directionality and CTV achievement

Achieved CTV
• no (n=26)
• yes (n=13)

y axis: daily biomarker concentrations (in mg/L or g/L)

Hoban et al. J Pediatr 2023





Maternal Biomarkers of Secretory Activation in Breast Pump-Dependent Mothers of Preterm Infants: An Integrative Review

Box 2. FIVE MAJOR FINDINGS

Findings

1. SA is delayed and/or impaired in breast pump-dependent mothers of preterm infants.
2. MBMs are associated with pumped MOM volume.
3. Achievement of SA is associated with pumping frequency.
4. Maternal comorbidities may further delay and/or impair achievement of SA.
5. There is a lack of consensus about which MBM and analysis techniques to use in research and practice.

MBMs, MOM biomarkers; MOM, mother's own milk; SA, secretory activation.

A rapid decrease in Na = highly predictive of successful lactation

Prolonged elevation in Na or Na/K ratio = impaired secretory activation

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Parker et al. *BreastfeedingMedicine* 2023

Upcoming Studies using Milk BioMarkers

RUSH UNIVERSITY
Children's Hospital

Early Pumping Behaviors Predict Pumped Milk Volume, Achievement of Secretory Activation and Coming to Volume in Breast Pump-Dependent Mothers of Preterm Infants



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Unpublished data courtesy of Dr. Hoban and Meier

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Objective: To measure three pumping behaviors each day during postpartum days 1 to 14

- number of pumping sessions
- minutes spent pumping
- longest interval between pumping sessions

and to determine their relationships to

- achievement of secretory activation (MOM biomarkers: sodium [Na] and sodium-to-potassium ratios Na:K)
- coming to volume (CTV)
- daily and cumulative pumped MOM volume

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- Non-randomized observational study of breast pump-dependent mothers of preterm infants
- October 2019-October 2020
- Rush University Medical Center
- Inclusion criteria: singleton infant born at <34 weeks without major severe medical complications or anomalies, plan to provide MOM, no hormonal contraception or galactagogues
- Daily data (electronic pumping data with SMART pump, milk weights) and milk specimens for first 14 days postpartum
- Researchers measuring outcomes were blinded to pumping behaviors

• **Outcome:** achievement of secretory activation (defined as Na \leq 16 mMol and/or Na:K ratio < 0.8)

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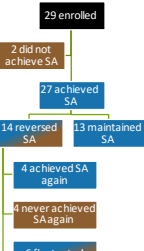
- 29 mothers with usable data
- Achievement of SA in 27 (93%) mothers, at median of 5.8 days [4.30, 8.23] postpartum
- None of the mothers achieved SA prior to postpartum day 4

Table 1. Maternal, infant characteristics (N=29)

Characteristic	Mean ± SD or n (%)
Characteristics	29 (100%)
Maternal age (years)	29.1 ± 6
Race	
Black	15 (52%)
White	10 (34%)
More than one race	4 (14%)
Ethnicity	
Hispanic	10 (34%)
Non-Hispanic	19 (66%)
Pregnancy Body Mass Index (kg/m ²)	31.0 ± 8.0
Infant weight (kg)	5.0 (7%)
Chromogam (21.0-28.0)	4 (13.8%)
Chromogam (>28.0)	16 (56.2%)
Birth mode	
Caesarean section	17 (58%)
Vaginal	12 (42%)
Infant birth weight (grams)	1,474 ± 521
Infant gestational age (weeks)	36.5 ± 2.4
Infant sex	
Male	13 (45%)
Female	16 (55%)
Apgar score (I) min (0-10)	8.1 ± 2
Apgar score (5) min (0-10)	8.1 ± 1
Infant received neonates	25 (87%)
Pneumonia	12 (41%)
Infection	6 (21%)
PCO2	5 (17%)
Operational diabetes	6 (21%)
Infant diagnosis	4 (14%)
Infant on breast	17 (58%)
Length of breastfeed (days)	2 ± 3
Number of maternal hospitalizations	3 ± 1
Maternal hospitalization (days)	2 (34%)
Blood loss (> 500 mL)	10 (34%)
Previous breastfeeding experience	12 (41%)

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- Each additional daily pumping session increased the odds of achieving SA within the next 2 days by 48% (p = .01)
- Total daily minutes spent pumping was not associated with achievement of SA
- The longest inter-pump interval was not associated with achievement of SA

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Two pumping behavior clusters emerged

	High intensity (n 17)	Low intensity (n 12)
Number of pumping sessions per day	5±2	2±2
Minutes spent pumping per day	105±53	46±31
Longest interval (hr) between pumping sessions	5.5±1.7	7.5±3.2

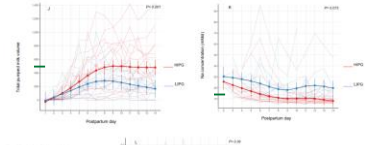


Figure 5. Time-dependent differences in pumped milk volume, the concentration, and the rate for milk for both clusters (High intensity (n 17) and Low intensity (n 12)). The graphs show milk volume (mL), concentration (g/dL), and rate (mL/hr) over time (hr) for both clusters. The High intensity cluster (red) consistently shows higher values across all metrics compared to the Low intensity cluster (blue). Error bars represent standard deviation.

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- Changes in pumping behaviors were confined to the first 5-6 postpartum days with little change in pumped MOM volume, Na and Na:K ratio and after postpartum day 8
- This study underscores the importance of early pumping behaviors for mothers of preterm NICU infants: a critical interval for achievement of SA and CTV may be within the first 6-8 days
- For clinicians, quality improvement initiatives should target the very early postpartum period with respect to the use of lactation experts, rapid access to high-quality breast pumps, and daily monitoring of achievement of SA and CTV

Unpublished data courtesy of Dr. Hebaand Moler

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- **NOT YET RECRUITING**
- **Comparison of Breast Pump Suction Patterns**
- **ClinicalTrials.gov ID** NCT06061913
- **Sponsor** University of Florida
- **Information provided by** University of Florida
- **Last Update Posted** 2024-02-14

Thank you

