
Response to Heat Treating Breast Milk as an Infant Feeding Option

We would like to respectfully respond to the letter submitted by Israel-Ballard et al. regarding our manuscript “Alternative Modified Infant-Feeding Practices to Prevent Postnatal Transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1 Through Breast Milk: Past, Present, and Future”1 published in the February 2006 issue of the JHL. We acknowledge the significant contributions Ms. Israel-Ballard and her colleagues have made to the field in the past year by expanding the knowledge of the use of Flash-Heat treatment of human milk for prevention of HIV-1.2-4 We regret that such contributions were not included in our review article. However, we would like to clarify that such omissions were due to editorial delays and not due to our oversight. Our manuscript was submitted to JHL in September 2004 and accepted after a long review period in June 2005. Unfortunately, the manuscript was not published until February 2006. At this juncture, we appreciate the clarification Ms. Israel-Ballard and her colleagues present in their letter regarding their original heat treatment method for inactivation of HIV-1 in human milk, in which “milk was brought to a boil in a small water bath,”5 and their revised Flash-Heat method, in which the water boils, but not the milk. With the same goals in mind as our colleagues in California, we too look forward to more research advances that offer options for prevention of postnatal transmission of HIV-1 through milk.

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References

Boxing Neonate on an Engorged Breast—A New Behavior Identified

Exclusive breastfeeding, an important component of essential newborn care, can be propagated if positioning, attachment, and latching on a nonengorged breast is done properly.

It was observed during postnatal visits that when the breast is engorged, the infant does not suckle and pushes himself away with his fists hands at the breasts or abdomen of the mother, and kicks away at the mother’s abdomen and avoids feeding.

This newly identified, interesting behavior of avoiding and pushing away at the engorged breast by a neonate as if he is boxing can be considered as a sign of breast engorgement (BE). This behavior if observed is a valuable tool to suspect or diagnose BE.