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LADDAWAN CHITKOW : EFFECTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF NARCOTIC ANALGESIC DRUGS TO THE MOTHER DURING THE FIRST STAGE OF LABOR ON THE BEHAVIOR AND LENGTH OF TIME OF THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL BREAST FEEDING AMONG NEONATES DURING THE EARLY NEONATAL PERIOD. THESIS ADVISOR : CHONGKOL MAHAWAT, M.P.H. (SOCIAL MED.), JARUEYPORN SUPARP, M.P.H. (URBAN HEALTH), BOONTHAM KIPREDARBORISUTHI, M.Ed. (Ed. RESEARCH), 131 p. ISBN 974-663-132-2

The neonatal health and the first establishment of effective breast feeding among newborns is affected by the administration of Pethidine, a narcotic analgesic drug, to the mother to relieve pain during the first stage of labor. This drug is transferred from mother to fetus across the placenta. The objectives of this study were to compare the breast feeding behavior and length of time of the first successful effective breast feeding in the early neonatal period between two groups of infants: one whose mother received the narcotic analgesic drug during the first stage of labor and those whose mother did not. Among infants whose mother received the narcotic analgesic, comparison was also done according to the time of administration: 1 hour and more than 1 hour before giving birth. This was a case-control study comprising two groups of 100 infants each. The Infant Breast Feeding Assessment Tool was used to assess the breast feeding behavior of healthy full term infants born to mothers having their 2nd or 3rd baby and normal labor at Nakorn Pathom Hospital from October 1, 1998 to November 30, 1998. The study was analyzed by t-test and one-way ANOVA. The study showed that the average scores of breast feeding behavior during early neonatal period among infants whose mothers did not receive narcotic analgesic drug are higher than the other group. The average length of time of the first successful breast feeding between these two groups is significantly different at p value (< 0.001). The group whose mothers did not receive the narcotic analgesic drug took a shorter time to breast feed. It was found that the infants whose mothers received the narcotic analgesic drug within one hour before labor had higher average scores of successful breast feeding behavior. The length of time to start successful breast feeding between these two groups is significantly different at p-value (< 0.05). The group whose mothers received the narcotic analgesic drug within one hour before labor took shorter times to start successful breast feeding.

The investigation suggests that the differences of behavior and length of time to start the first successful breast feeding among neonates, during early neonatal period may be directly affected by the administration of Pethidine. Thus, mothers who received Pethidine more than one hour before giving birth, should be closely taken care of during and after labor especially during the first two hours after giving birth. A nurse and her colleagues should stimulate both mother and her infant to start breast feeding as soon as possible.