

Thesis Title      The Study of Preterm Infant's Health Status, Maternal Knowledge Attitude and Practice of Care on Health Promotion of Infants age 0-6 month : A Comparative Study between Preterm and Fullterm Infants's mother at Siriraj Hospital.

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#### ABSTRACT

The objectives of this study were to investigate the Preterm Infant's Health Status. Compare knowledge, attitude and practice on care for promotion of child health age 0-6 month between preterm and fullterm infant's mother, and to determine the relationship between knowledge, attitude and maternity practice on child care and preterm infant's health status.

The sample were 30 pairs of mother and preterm infants age 2 month who were attending the Preterm Baby Clinic and 30 pairs of mother and fullterm infants who were attending the Well Baby Clinic for fullterm infant at Siriraj Hospital, during November 5, 1991 to February 25, 1992. All cases were followed until six months old. The survey revealed that mother's level of education, family's income, working status and number of children in the two groups were similar.

Tools used for data collection were questionnaire for general information of mother and infant, mother's knowledge, attitude and practice on care of their infants in 3 areas of concern, namely food appropriate for age, vaccination and mother-infant attachment. Data were analysed by SPSS-X program. The percentages, means, standard deviations, t-test  $\chi^2$ -test and Fisher's exact test were employed.

The results of the analysis showed that 73.3 percent of preterm infant had poor health status and 26.7 percent had good health status. Preterm infants were sick more often and their sickness got more severe than fullterm infants. However, their weight and length gained were in normal limits.

Comparison between preterm and fullterm infant's mothers to knowledge, attitude and practice on child care indicated that the difference in maternal practice on child care between the two groups were not statistically significant. But the difference in knowledge and attitude were statistically significant at  $\alpha = .05$ . There was

a relationships between mother's knowledge, attitude and practice on child care and preterm infant's health status with statistically significance, (P - value < .05).

Conclusions, preterm delivery influence infant's health. The preterm infants who had poor health status had mother with poor knowledge, attitude and practice on child care, particularly in the area of feeding, vaccination and mother-infant bonding.