Thesis Title The Effects of Nonnutritive Sucking During Tube Feeding in Premature Infants.

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine the effects of nonnutritive sucking during tube feeding in premature infants. Twenty hospitalized premature infants at Maharat Nakhonrajsima Hospital were purposive selected for the study during the period of June of December 1987. Using gestational age, posnatal age, birth weight and history of respiratory problem as strata, the subjects then were randomly assigned into either experimental (n = 10) or control group (n = 10). The subjects in the experimental group were allowed nonnutritive sucking during all tube feedings while the control group received routine care.

The results revealed that the weight gain, gastric residual, sucking efficiency, age and bodyweight when the infants could first suck effectively, and the number of infants who suffered complications during the study between the two groups were not significantly different ($P > .05$). The most postconceptual age of the infants who could first suck effectively were 35 weeks or more.

Most complications found in these two groups were sepsis and diarrhea. Respiratory complication was found only in the control group.

The findings were not support the hypotheses. The limitation of this study, implication for practice and suggestion for further study were recommended.