

Obstacles to Breastfeeding in Inpatient Pediatric Settings



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Introduction

- Breastfeeding is important for both infant and maternal health
- Research regarding inpatient breastfeeding support outside the postpartum period is lacking

Objective

- To identify the current level of support for breastfeeding parents during their child's hospitalization at UC Davis Children's Hospital

Methods

- Conducted semi-structured interviews with breastfeeding parents during or following their child's hospitalization



Source: United States Breastfeeding Committee

Representative Quotes

Difficulty Feeding at the Breast

"...my daughter had all these lines in her so that couldn't really be moved, I couldn't really hold her correctly..."

Pumping Challenges

"It was difficult to get equipment...And it seems like I was switching one pump with other women...to have to bother the nurses, to have them get the pump for me every 4 hours...it's not feasible."

Lack of Privacy

"It was very difficult to find any private place to pump...I couldn't use the bathroom inside the room because it was shared with another patient next door."

Difficulty Accessing a Lactation Consultant

"...she said that she could get a lactation consultant and I was really hopeful for that. But then...nobody was able to come so...I kind of had to just Google what to do and fix the problem myself."

Themes

Feeding at the breast

- Child illness
- Medical equipment
- Separation from infant
- Furniture and room setup

Pumping Challenges

- Learning how to pump
- Access to pump and pumping supplies
- Access to storage for pumped milk

Other challenges

- Lack of privacy
- Difficulty accessing lactation consultant
- Staff knowledge
- Miscommunication with medical team

Conclusions

- Future quality improvement projects could focus on increased privacy and improved access to pumping supplies and lactation support