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

**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