

Evaluation of Factors Influencing Breastfeeding in Children Aged 0 to 24 Months Received in an Urban Community Health Center in Abidjan Cocody (Cote d'Ivoire)

Mouroufie AKJ1,2*, Kouakou EKV1,3, Kouakou Firmin K4,5,6, Tanoh F. Eboua7, Kouakou AC8, Kamara Siaky3,5, Carene M. S. Konan3,9, Djetouan K. J. Marus1, Koko K. Bruno1, Eudes S. Kpan10, Kouamé G. M. Bouafou11, Hortense FK2 and Kati-Coulibaly S1

1. Laboratory of Nutrition and Pharmacology, Faculty of Biosciences, University Felix Houphouet-Boigny, Abidjan, Ivory Coast 22 B.P. 582 Abidjan 22, Ivory Coast

2. Pasteur Institute, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

3. National Nutrition Program (PNN), Abidjan, Ivory Coast

4. Anthropology Society of Paris (SAP), France

5. Institute of Anthropological Sciences of Development (ISAD), UFR Humanities and Society Sciences (SHS), Felix Houphouet-Boigny University (UFHB), Abidjan, Ivory Coast

6. Laboratory of Biomorphology and Physical Anthropology, UFR SHS and UFR Odontostomatologie, Felix Houphouet-Boigny University (UFHB), Abidjan, Ivory Coast

7. Faculty of Medical Sciences of Abidjan, University Felix Houphouet-Boigny, Abidjan, Ivory Coast 22 B.P. 582 Abidjan 22, Ivory Coast

8. Laboratory of Food Biotechnology and Microbiology, Training and Research Unit in Food Science and Technology (UFR-STA), Nangui Abrogoua University, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

9. Littoraux Seas Food Security (LIMERSAT), UFR Humanities and Society, Institute of Tropical Geography, University Felix Houphouet-Boigny, Ivory Coast

10. Laboratory of Pharmacodynamics and Biochemistry, Felix Houphouet-Boigny University, Ivory Coast

11. Section Superior Normal School, Ivory Coast

Introduction

Current models of breastfeeding remain well below the recommended level and vary considerably from region to region. International organizations (WHO, UNICEF) are multiplying initiatives to promote and support breastfeeding. In developing countries, feeding practices are very often inadequate and incompatible with the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO) and are the main factors affecting the physical growth and mental development of the child. Poor nutritional status in early childhood also affects health in adulthood.

In West Africa, protecting, promoting and supporting exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of life is recognized as the most important strategy for reducing infant and child mortality. However, the breastfeeding rate in the region is 20% and remains among the lowest in the world.

Problems related to breastfeeding occur in West Africa and Côte d'Ivoire. Indeed, despite the existence of recommendations on the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding, certain nutritional practices are inappropriate and have consequences on the health of infants (EDSCI, 2016) and are believed to be the cause of malnutrition in children of preschool age. WHO and UNICEF recommend exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months. It

provides calories, micronutrients and water daily and has the particularity of changing according to the needs of the infant. In 2016, the percentage of infants under six months who were exclusively breastfed was 23.5% in Côte d'Ivoire (MICS, 2016). Despite the efforts of the Ministry of Health of Côte d'Ivoire and its partners, the practice of breastfeeding faces obstacles. Therefore, it is important to study the environmental context of infant feeding with nursing mothers. The purpose of this study is to assess the factors influencing breastfeeding in children 0-24 months of age.

Methods

The survey was carried out in the urban community health service of Anono: 362 mothers were interviewed. The selection of mothers for the study was made according to the place of residence in the commune of Cocody (Abidjan). The questionnaire concerns the mother's profession, the level of education, the choice of breastfeeding, the type of breastfeeding, the mother's profession and the age of introduction of foods other than milk. maternal. The study took place from March to April 2018. The data were processed using Excel 2007. The investigation only started when the mother's consent was obtained.

Conclusion

The results of our study show that the practice of exclusive breastfeeding among mother's civil servants and students remains low in Cocody. Several factors influence the practice of exclusive breastfeeding. There is the level of knowledge of the benefits of exclusive breastfeeding and duration, insufficient milk secretion, conditions contraindicated for breastfeeding, the function of the lactating mothers, the mother's education level and the early introduction of food.

While health workers in all its components do a remarkable job, but based on our findings and previous studies, health workers and partners need to continue to raise awareness about the practice of exclusive breastfeeding until at six months and the prosecution up to two years.