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Study of infant's deaths and pre-lacteal feeding practices using verbal autopsy as a tool in Dehradun, India

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In many countries across the world, the practice of giving pre-lacteal feed to the new born babies especially, in India even before lactation has been a common cultural practice which results in many complications. This study was conducted to see any relation between pre-lacteal feeding and infant deaths in the target population. A survey was done on all the house of the de-ceased children residing in our field practice areas by visiting their houses. Results in our study shows that out of 54 infants, 32 (59.2%) had been given pre-lacteal feeds. While 22 (40.7%) had not been received any pre-lacteal feeds. Out of these 32 de-ceased children almost 50% expired during the neonatal period. Conclusion in our present study is that the large number of newborns can be saved if pre-lacteal feeding practices are stopped.

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