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معاونت محترم پژوهش دانشگاه علوم پزشکی مشهد
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Breastfeeding and facial expressions in full-term neonates during immunization injections: A Clinical Randomized Trial

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Background: The aim of this study was to explore the effect of breastfeeding on facial expressions in full-term neonates during injection of hepatitis B vaccine.

Methods: This was a randomized clinical trial. A sample of full-term neonates was randomly allocated into two groups: the experimental group and the control group. Neonates in the experimental group were breastfed two minutes before, during, and after the hepatitis B immunization and the control group were held in mothers' arms but not fed. Facial expressions were assessed using the Douleur Aiguë du Nouveau-né (DAN) scale. The assessments were carried out after hepatitis B immunization.

Results: One hundred thirty healthy full-term neonates were studied (30 in the experimental group and 10 in the control group). Gestational age, birth weight, Apgar score and gender did not differ between the two groups. The median facial expressions (interquartile, range) for the DAN scale measuring were: for the experimental group 1 (1-4), and for the controls group was 2 (2-5). Differences between the median on the facial expressions for the two groups were 1 (95% CI, -1 to 0). The Mann-Whitney U tests showed that the facial expressions of DAN scale significantly were lower in the experimental group as compared to the controls (P<0.001).

Conclusion: The findings confirm that breastfeeding reduces facial expressions in hepatitis B vaccine injection.