

1 10/19/88

Anticandidal Function of Breast Milk

Thesis submitted for the partial fulfilment of
The Master Degree in Pediatrics

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To my family

and all my real friends



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thanks to God in the beginning and at the end.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and heartfelt thanks to Dr. Farida Farid, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, to whom I am greatly indebted for her valuable guidance, expert assistance and fruitful criticism.

My greatful appreciation and deep indebtness to Dr. Galila Mokhtar, Lecturer of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, are far shorter than her right, for her generous supervision and constant guidance.

I would like to thank deeply Dr. Narguis Eleish, Lecturer of Microbiology and Immunology, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, to whom I am very greatful, for her helpful support, providing accurate, unfailing advise and supervision during the practical work of this study.

Thanks to Dr. Mohsen Abdel Hamid, Lecturer of Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, for his help in the statistical analysis of the results.

I also wish to express my thanks to my colleagues in the Pediatric Department, Ain Shams University Hospitals, and to all my friends for their help and support throughout this work.

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INTRODUCTION
AND
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INTRODUCTION

Immunity in the newborn is derived from maternal immunoglobulins, that passed antenatally through the placenta to the fetus, and from his own immunoglobulins formed as a result of environmental contact with antigens.

Protection against infection represents a major advantage to the breast fed infant, as human breast milk contains a wide variety of protective factors. It contains immunoglobulins, more than 20 active enzymes, lactoferrin and cells such as lymphocytes and macrophages (Reddy et al., 1977; Shahani et al., 1980 and Ogra and Green, 1982). Thus it provides direct and indirect lethal action against bacteria, viruses, fungi (*Candida albicans*) and even parasites.

Fungal infections including oropharyngeal candidiasis are not unusual in neonates due to either contact with the organism in the birth canal, or transmission within the newborn nursery (Overall, 1987), or from infected nipple of the mother. Many factors favour the occurrence of candidal infection in the neonatal period, unless a safeguard is provided, e.g. breast milk.

AIM OF THE WORK

- The aim of this work was to estimate the incidence of oral thrush among infants in their first 3 months of age.
- to find the relation between the mode of feeding and the incidence of thrush.
- and to evaluate the anticandidal effect of human breast milk in vitro.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE