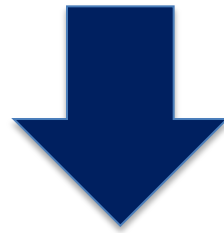




Breast milk handling in neonatal units:  
from milk expression to baby administration

**Uppsala, May 2015**

# Mother's Milk



# Key Importance





Flow	Equipment
<i>expression and collection</i> mothers expressing at home or on the maternity unit given written instructions and kit storage at home ↓	breastpump (Ameda Lactaline personal pump) breastshield - extension set - bottles refrigerator or freezer
<i>transfer</i> transport to the hospital storage in the hospital (NICU) ↓	coolingbox refrigerator or freezer
<i>storage</i> milk defrosted ↓	refrigerator
defrosted milk aliquoted pasteurized (optional) ↓	bottles or syringes and tubing pasteurizer (Sterifeed S75 TES)
ready for use ↓	refrigerator bottle warmer (Devappa)

**Fig 1. The flow of the milk.**

Cossey V. *Am J Infect Control* 2011;



# Milk Expression

“Every time I expressed milk at home I cried; that was when I most felt my daughter’s absence”



# Milk Expression



Milk expression is the key to success for a majority of women.

- It is a complex task that extends over a long period of time.
- It requires professional support.
- Little information is available about which expression method is best for achieving the greatest volume of milk and there is little concern about the comfort of the mothers.

# Milk Expression



## Journal of Human Lactation

<http://jhl.sagepub.com/>

### Volume of Milk Obtained in Relation to Location and Circumstances of Expression in Mothers of Very Low Birth Weight Infants

Juliana Acuña-Muga, Noelia Ureta-Velasco, Javier de la Cruz-Bértolo, Rosa Ballesteros-López, Rocío Sánchez-Martínez, Eugenia Miranda-Casabona, Almudena Miguel-Trigoso, Lidia García-San José and Carmen Pallás-Alonso

*J Hum Lact* 2014 30: 41 originally published online 8 November 2013

DOI: 10.1177/0890334413509140

The online version of this article can be found at:

Objective: to estimate the volume of milk obtained by mothers of very low birth weight infants as a function of proximity to the infant during the expression and the use of the kangaroo position during milk expression in the neonatal unit.



# Milk Expression

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*Acuña Muga J, Ureta Velasco N et al. Journal Human Lactation. 2014; 30:41*

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# Milk Expression

## Conclusions

Mothers increased the volumes of milk when pumping during kangaroo care or immediately after kangaroo care.

Pumping rooms in areas where the mother is far from the infant are **associated** with lower milk volumes than when expressions are close to the infant.

*Acuña Muga J, Ureta Velasco N et al. Journal Human Lactation. 2014; 30:41*

# Breastmilk Handling Routines

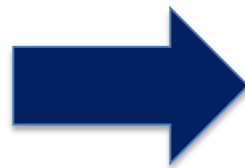




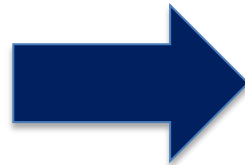
## Breastmilk Handling Routines

- The consequences of the handling routines for the milk are poorly studied.
- There is little agreement on the breastmilk handling routines

# Breastmilk Handling Routines



**Quality**



**Safety**

Nutrients are not our sole concern...

# No Standardization of the Handling Routines



BREASTFEEDING MEDICINE  
Volume 3, Number 3, 2008  
© Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.  
DOI: 10.1089/bfm.2007.0033

## Breastmilk Handling Routines for Preterm Infants in Sweden: A National Cross-Sectional Study

Soley Omarsdottir,<sup>1</sup> Charlotte Casper,<sup>1,2</sup> Agneta Åkerman,<sup>3</sup> Staffan Polberger,<sup>3</sup> and Mireille Vanpée<sup>1</sup>



Hospital Universitario  
12 de Octubre

Comunidad de Madrid

Servicio de neonatología hospital 12 de Octubre

# No Standardization of the Handling Routines

TABLE 4. NUTRITIONAL ANALYSIS AND MAXIMUM FREEZING TIME OF DONOR MILK AND MATERNAL MILK IN THE NEONATAL UNITS

	<i>Donor milk</i>	<i>Maternal milk</i>
Nutritional analysis		
Before pasteurization	14	
After pasteurization	2	
Once per week		7
Every other week		15
When needed	1	3
No analysis	10	11
Maximum freezing time		
3 months	4	11
4 months		1
6 months	23	24

*Omarsdottir S. Breastfeeding Medicine. 2008*

# No Standardization of the Handling Routines

TABLE 3. DURATION OF FREEZING AND GESTATIONAL AGE OF INFANTS ONLY RECEIVING FREEZE-THAWED MATERNAL MILK

<i>Hospital</i>	<i>Duration of freezing (−20°C)</i>	<i>Gestational age</i>
Västervik Hospital	At least 3–4 hours	≤32 weeks
Kalmar Hospital	1 day	≤32 weeks
Norrköping	1 day	≤32 weeks
Linköping University Hospital	1–3 days	≤32 weeks
Karlskrona Hospital	2 days	≤30 weeks
Umeå University Hospital	2 days	≤32 weeks
Östersund Hospital	2 days	≤32 weeks
Jönköping Hospital	3 days	≤32 weeks
Växjö Hospital	3 days	≤30 weeks
Örebro University Hospital	3 days	≤32 weeks
Lund University Hospital	7 days	≤32 weeks

*Omarsdottir S. Breastfeeding Medicine. 2008*

# Key Points

1. Which are the optimum containers?
2. What happens to the milk during freezing?
3. What happens to the milk after defrosting?
4. What happens during administration?



# 1. Which are the optimum containers?

## Risks surrounding bottling and handling

### 1. Risk of modifying the nutritional properties:

Adherence of nutritional substances to the surfaces.

Breaking the cold chain: mixing the milk of various expressions.

### 2. Risk of modifying the microbiological characteristics.

#### 1. Risk of altering the organoleptic properties: Smell, color

#### 1. Risk in handling the milk:

Cap, unbreakable containers.

Facilitate the bottling, processing and storage.

# 1. Which are the optimum containers?



**Hard Plastic  
(polypropylens)  
Single Use**

- **Glass (Pyrex)**
  - Repeated use
  - Risk of breakage.

Sterilized

- Not recommended
  - Plastic bags (polyethylene)
  - Hard polycarbonate plastic (bisphenol A BPA)

# 1. Which are the optimum containers?

- . Risks in labeling

- . Risk in mixing up different milk from different mothers

*Fleischman EK. Innovative application of bar coding technology to breast milk administration. J Perinat Neonat Nurs 2013; 27 (2): 145-150*

## 2. What happens to the milk during freezing time?



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BREASTFEEDING MEDICINE  
Volume X, Number X, 2011  
© Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.  
DOI: 10.1089/bfm.2011.0079

*Original Article*

### Effect of Freezing Time on Macronutrients and Energy Content of Breastmilk

Nadia Raquel García-Lara,<sup>1</sup> Diana Escuder-Vieco,<sup>1,2</sup> Oscar García-Algar,<sup>2,3</sup>  
Javier De la Cruz,<sup>4</sup> David Lora,<sup>4</sup> and Carmen Pallás-Alonso<sup>1,2</sup>

## 2. What happens to the milk during freezing time?

MACRONUTRIENT AND CALORIC CONTENTS OF BREASTMILK ADJUSTED FOR FREEZING TIME, TYPE OF HOMOGENIZATION, AND STAGE OF LACTATION

Content	Reference group <sup>a</sup>	Difference vs. raw milk for freezing time of				
		7 days	15 days	30 days	60 days	90 days
Fat (g/dL)	5.13 (4.68, 5.59)	-0.19 (-0.28, -0.09)	-0.24 (-0.34, -0.15)	-0.31 (-0.41, -0.22)	-0.42 (-0.51, -0.32)	-0.58 (-0.67, -0.48)
P	—	p=0.0001	p<0.0001	p<0.0001	p<0.0001	p<0.0001
Total nitrogen (g/dL)	1.22 (1.14, 1.30)	0.01 (-0.01, 0.04)	-0.02 (-0.04, 0.01)	-0.03 (-0.05, -0.01)	-0.02 (-0.04, 0.01)	-0.02 (-0.05, 0.01)
P	—	p=0.2035	p=0.1202	p=0.0099	p=0.1158	p=0.0391
Lactose (g/dL)	5.89 (5.8, 5.98)	0.03 (-0.001, 0.07)	0.05 (0.02, 0.09)	0.01 (-0.03, 0.04)	-0.004 (-0.04, 0.03)	-0.09 (-0.12, -0.06)
P	—	p=0.0677	p=0.0017	p=0.9355	p=0.8616	p<0.0001
Caloric (kcal/dL)	76.91 (72.66, 81.15)	-1.51 (-2.39, -0.63)	-2.01 (-2.89, -1.12)	-3.12 (-4.01, -2.23)	-3.99 (-4.89, -3.11)	-6.04 (-6.93, -5.15)
P	—	p=0.0009	p<0.0001	p<0.0001	p<0.0001	p<0.0001

Data are mean (95% confidence interval of the mean) (n=61 samples).

Statistical analysis for p values was by regression mixed-model analysis.

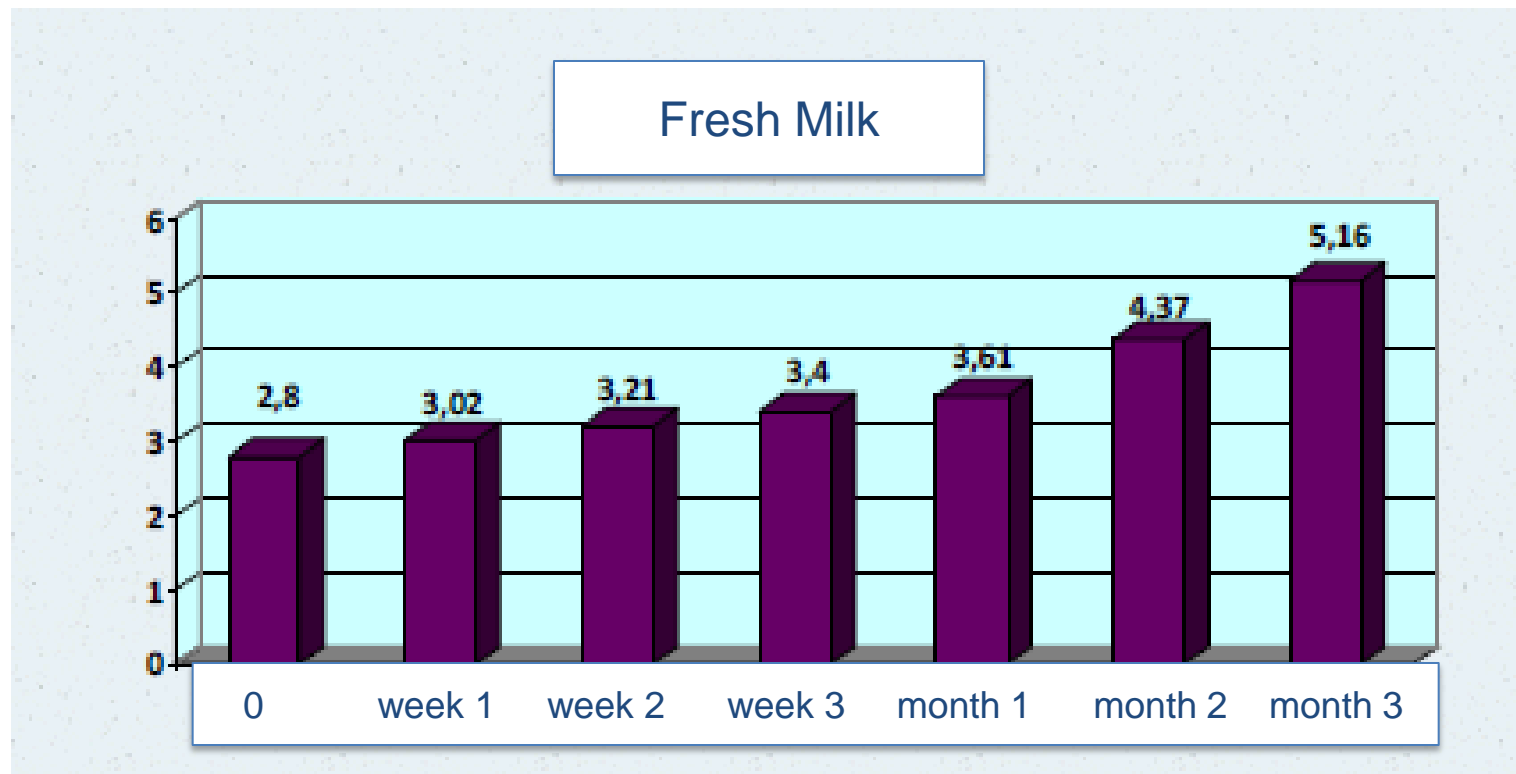
<sup>a</sup>Values of the reference group are estimated for samples of raw milk, manually homogenized and with stage of lactation > 15 days.

García Lara N. Breastfeeding Med. 2011



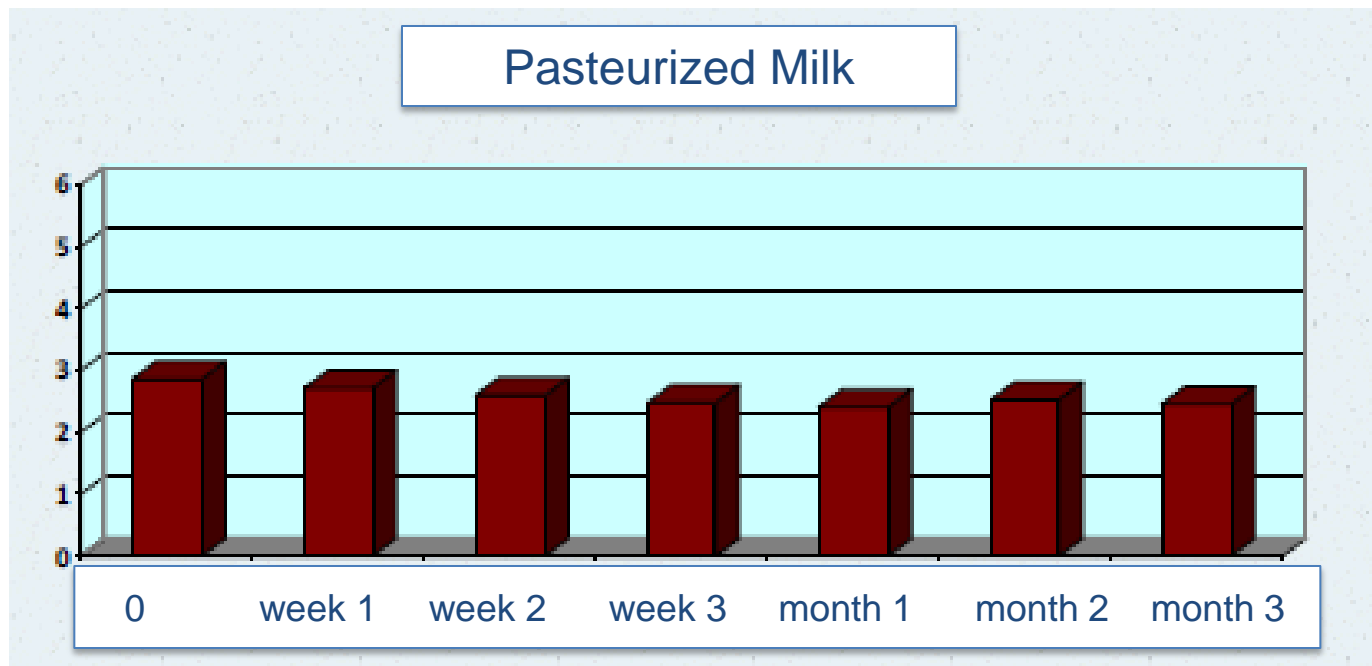
## 2. What happens to the milk during freezing time?

Influence of freezing time on the dornic acidity found in fresh human milk.



## 2. What happens to the milk during freezing time?

Influence of freezing time on the dornic acidity found in pasteurized human milk.



## 2. What happens to the milk during freezing time?

- . Modifications are not very relevant, though freezing is only one of multiple steps during the milk processing.
- . These modifications indicate that activity still occurs in milk even during freezing.

## 2. What happens to the milk during freezing time?

Journal of  
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### Article

#### **Proteome mapping of human skim milk proteins in term and preterm milk**

Claire Elisabeth Molinari, Ylenia S Casadio, Ben T Hartmann,  
Andreja Livk, Scott Bringans, Peter G Arthur, and Peter E Hartmann

*J. Proteome Res.*, Just Accepted Manuscript • DOI: 10.1021/pr2008797 • Publication Date (Web): 07 Feb 2012

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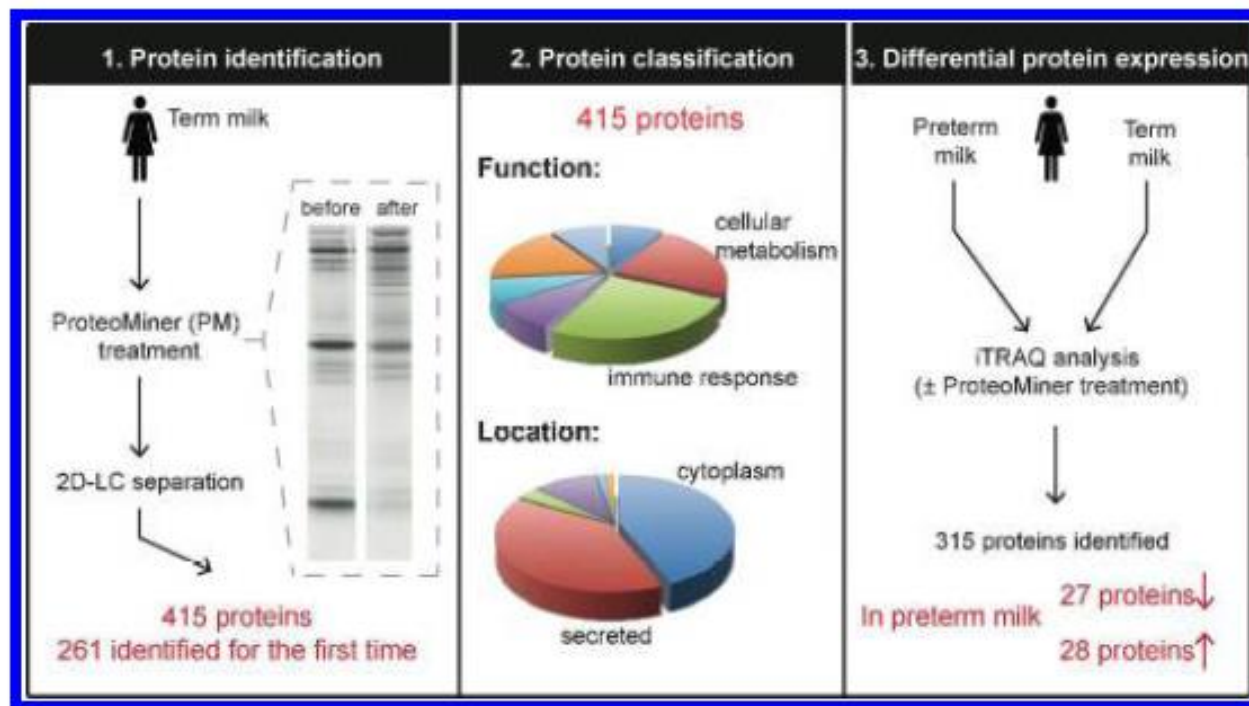
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### 3. What happens to the milk after defrosting?



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Early Human Development

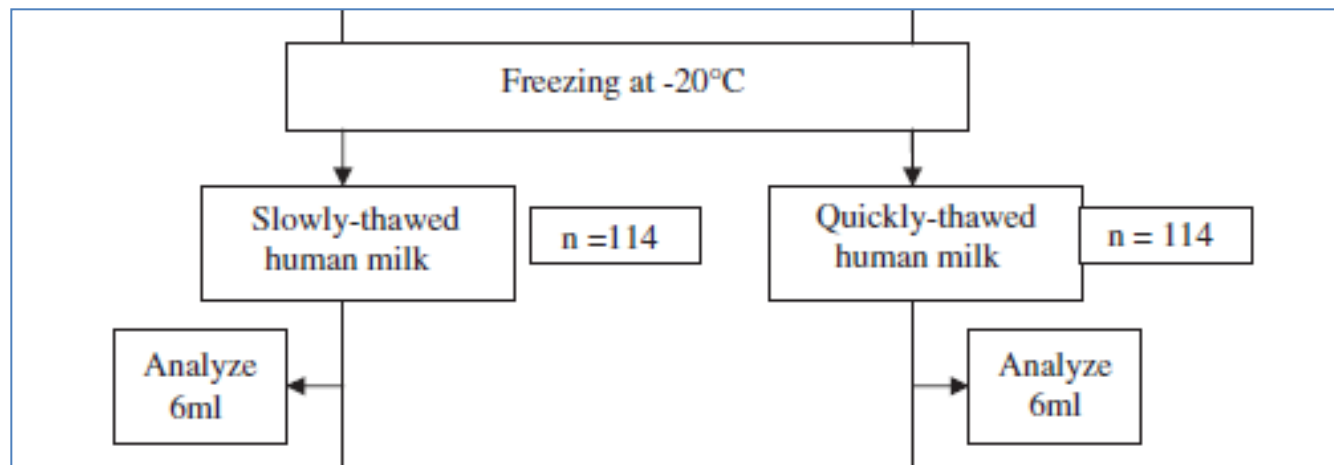
journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/earlhumdev](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/earlhumdev)



Analysis of the influence of pasteurization, freezing/thawing, and offer processes on human milk's macronutrient concentrations<sup>☆</sup>

Alan Araujo Vieira<sup>1</sup>, Fernanda Valente Mendes Soares<sup>1</sup>, Hellen Porto Pimenta<sup>2</sup>,  
Andrea Dunshee Abranches<sup>2</sup>, Maria Elisabeth Lopes Moreira<sup>1,\*</sup>

Instituto Fernandes Figueira, Av. Rui Barbosa 716, Rio de Janeiro, RJ CEP 22540-020, Brazil





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#### Early Human Development

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**Table 2**

Comparison of mean fat, protein and lactose concentrations (mg%) in human milk between the thawing processes.

	Slow thaw		Quick thaw		z	P <sup>a</sup>
	Mean ± Sd	Median	Mean ± Sd	Median		
Fat	2.00 ± 1.42	1.61	2.00 ± 1.48	1.60	−0.056	0.956
Protein	0.95 ± 0.41	0.88	0.99 ± 0.42	0.92	−0.823	0.410
Lactose	6.35 ± 0.54	6.47	6.33 ± 0.57	6.48	−0.18	0.860

<sup>a</sup> Mann–Whitney test.

### 3. What happens to the milk after defrosting?

#### ORIGINAL ARTICLES

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## Refrigerator Storage of Expressed Human Milk in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Meredith Slutzah, DO, Champa N. Codipilly, PhD, Debra Potak, RN, Richard M. Clark, PhD, and Richard J. Schanler, MD

### 3. What happens to the milk after defrosting?

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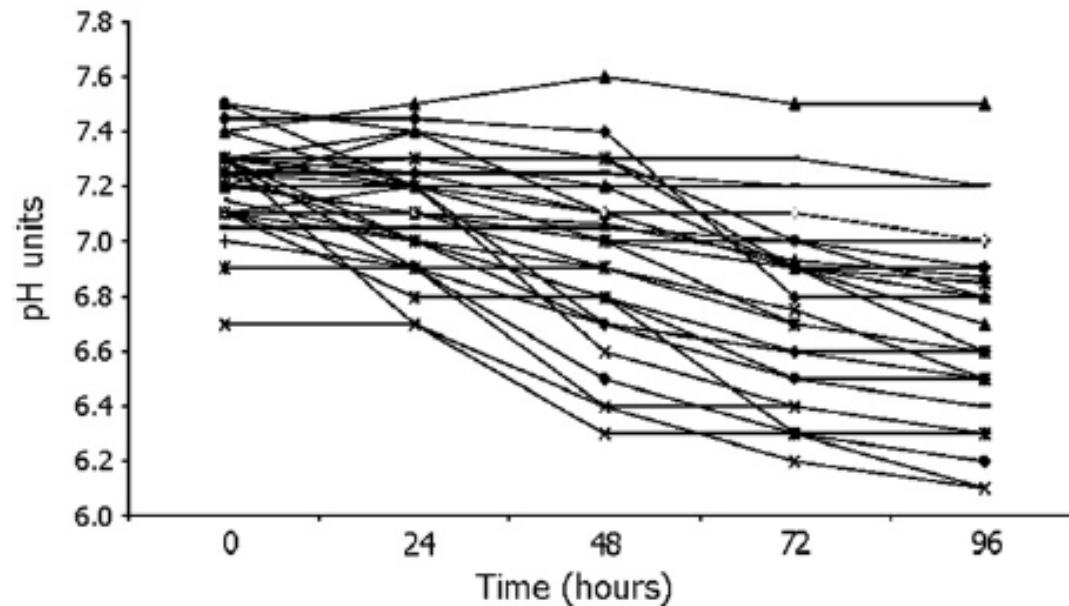
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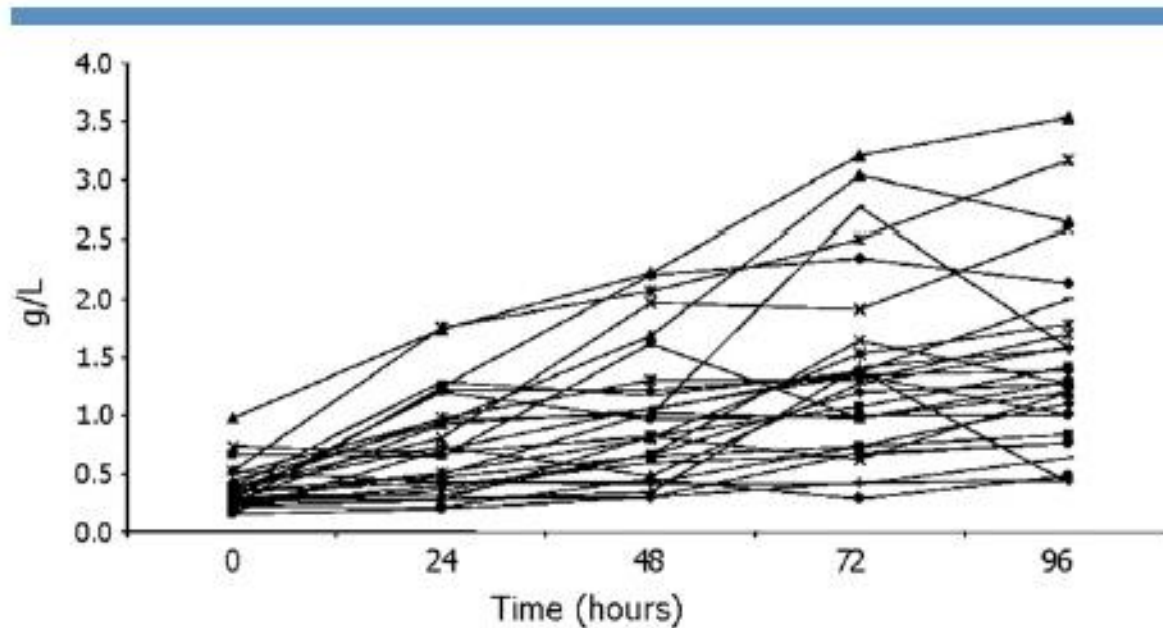
**Conclusions** Changes were minimal and the overall integrity of milk during refrigerator storage was preserved. Fresh mother's milk may be stored at refrigerator temperature for as long as 96 hours. (*J Pediatr* 2010;156:26-8).

### 3. What happens to the milk after defrosting?



**Figure 1.** Milk pH declined over 96-hour refrigerator storage ( $P < .001$ ). Each time point differs from the preceding value ( $P < .05$ ).

### 3. What happens to the milk after defrosting?



**Figure 3.** Free fatty acid concentrations increased 3-fold over 96-hour storage ( $P < .001$ ).

### 3. What happens to the milk after defrosting?

**Conclusions** Changes were minimal and the overall integrity of milk during refrigerator storage was preserved. Fresh mother's milk may be stored at refrigerator temperature for as long as 96 hours. (*J Pediatr* 2010;156:26-8).



**Safety  
Quality**

### 3. What happens to the milk after defrosting?

# Journal of Human Lactation

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## **Storage of Human Milk: Accepting Certain Uncertainties**

Riccardo Davanzo, Laura Travan and Sergio Demarini

*J Hum Lact* 2010 26: 233

DOI: 10.1177/0890334410374601

The online version of this article can be found at:

<http://jhl.sagepub.com/content/26/3/233>

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### 3 What happens to the milk after defrosting?

Table 1. Metavariability of Advice on Refrigerated Human Milk.

<i>Scientific Source</i>	<i>Expiration Time of Human Milk Stored in Refrigerator (0-4°C)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hanna 2004</li> <li>• Lawrence 2005</li> <li>• Silvestre D 2006</li> <li>• Martinez 2007</li> <li>• Jocson 1997</li> <li>• Ogundele 2000</li> <li>• Santiago 2005<sup>a</sup></li> <li>• Sosa 1987</li> <li>• Academy Breastfeeding Medicine 2004</li> <li>• American Academy of Family Physicians 2008</li> <li>• CDC 2009</li> <li>• Pardou 1994</li> <li>• Biagioli 2003</li> <li>• La Leche League International 2010</li> <li>• UNICEF/WHO 2009</li> </ul>	<p>2 days</p> <p>3 days</p> <p>5 days</p> <p>8 days</p>

<sup>a</sup>Fortified human milk.

*Davanzo R. Journal Human Lactation. 2010*

### 3 What happens to the milk after defrosting?

Everything depends on the  
balance between  
**quality and safety.**

## 4. What happens during administration?



## 4. What happens during administration?



### Loss of breast milk nutrients during tube feeding

R J STOCKS, D P DAVIES, F ALLEN, AND D SEWELL

*Department of Child Health, University of Leicester and Neonatal Unit Leicester Royal Infirmary, and  
Department of Human Biology, University of Loughborough*

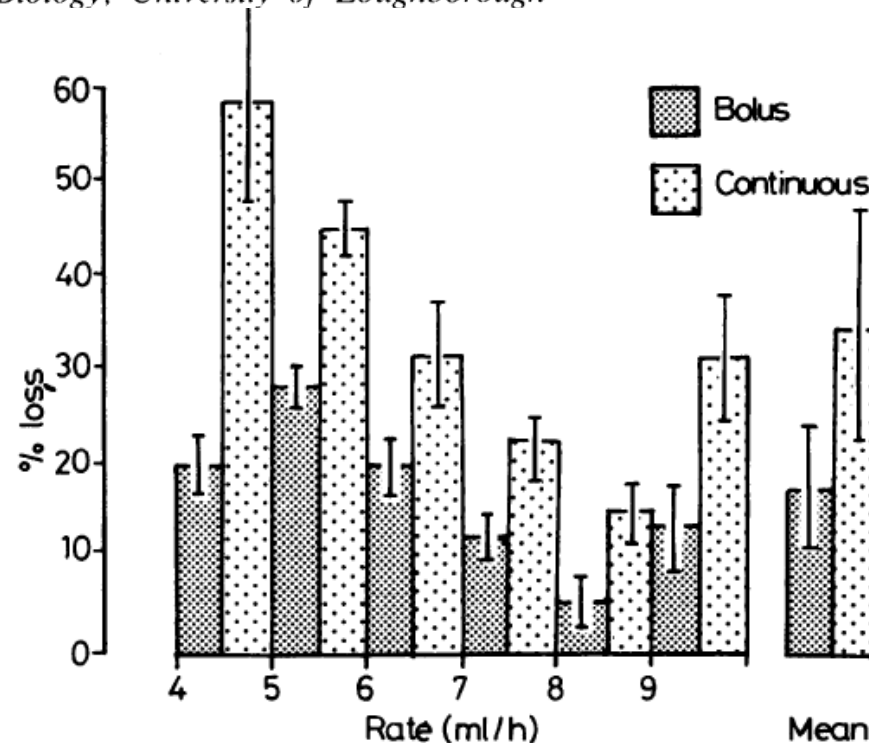


Fig. 1 *Fat loss: variation in relation to rate and method of feeding.*

## 4. What happens during administration?



### Fat loss during feeding of human milk

I NARAYANAN, B SINGH, AND D HARVEY

*Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, London*

Table *Variations in fat concentration during feeding of human milk (estimated by creamatocrit method<sup>2</sup>; values percentage mean (SD))*

Method	No of studies	Initial concentration	Final concentration	Difference
(a) Intermittent bolus feeding	50	6.3 (1.7)	5.9 (1.7)	-0.3 (0.5)
(b) Continuous infusion				
Central nozzle syringe				
1 Horizontal	50	5.4 (2.4)	26.8 (5.3)	21.4 (6.0)
2 Vertical	10	3.7 (0.8)	16.2 (3.2)	12.5 (3.5)
3 Horizontal with hourly mixing by syringe agitation	10	4.8 (1.4)	26.7 (2.7)	21.9 (2.0)
4 Horizontal with half hourly mixing	10	5.5 (1.5)	10.2 (1.2)	4.6 (0.7)
5 Vertical with hourly mixing	10	4.9 (0.9)	9.7 (0.6)	4.8 (0.6)
Eccentric nozzle syringe				
6 Horizontal	10	4.2 (1.1)	17.0 (2.6)	12.8 (2.1)
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8 Oblique—17°	10	4.6 (0.8)	12.2 (2.0)	8.0 (1.7)
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### Journal of Human Lactation

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#### **Type of Homogenization and Fat Loss during Continuous Infusion of Human Milk**

Nadia Raquel García-Lara, Diana Escuder-Vieco, Clara Alonso Díaz, Sara Vázquez Román, Javier De la Cruz-Bértolo and Carmen Rosa Pallás-Alonso

*J Hum Lact* published online 13 August 2014

DOI: 10.1177/0890334414546044

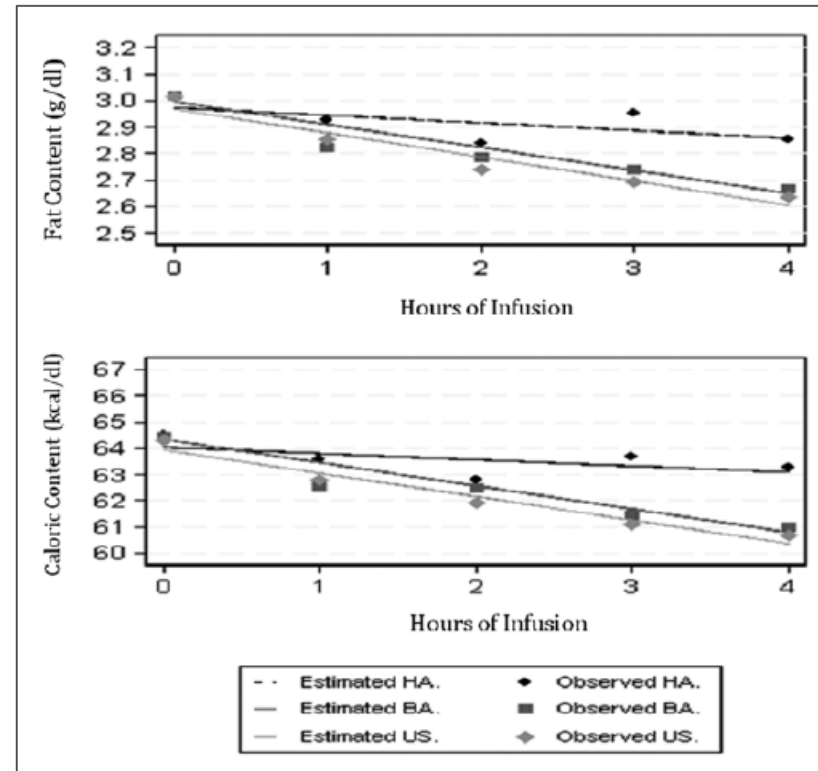
The online version of this article can be found at:

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## 4. What happens during administration?

**Figure 2.** Nutritional Content over Time.



Mean observed values are shown for each study group (BA corresponds to baseline agitation, HA to hourly agitation, and US to ultrasound). Lines represent estimated means across time and homogenization groups with a mixed-effect linear regression model.



## 4. What happens during administration?



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*Article*

### **Continuous Feedings of Fortified Human Milk Lead to Nutrient Losses of Fat, Calcium and Phosphorous**

Stefanie P. Rogers <sup>1</sup>, Penni D. Hicks <sup>2</sup>, Maria Hamzo <sup>2</sup>, Lauren E. Veit <sup>3</sup> and Steven A. Abrams <sup>2,4,\*</sup>

## 4. What happens during administration?

**Table 3.** Percent nutrient losses by fortifier.

	HM-DonF	HM-BovF	<i>p</i> -value
<b>Number of samples</b>	35	35	
Ca (%)	8 ± 4	28 ± 4	<0.001
Phos (%)	3 ± 4	24 ± 4	<0.001
Fat (%)	17 ± 2	25 ± 2	0.001
Protein (%)	0 ± 1	-1 ± 1	0.56

## 4. What happens during administration?



- Growth is key in the care of newborns
- During administration, much of milk's caloric contribution and other essential elements **needed** for growth can be lost
- The entire administration process should be optimized.

# What can we do?

# Steps to control critical points of expressed breast milk

## Expressed breast milk on a neonatal unit: A hazard analysis and critical control points approach

Veerle Cossey, MD,<sup>a,b</sup> Axel Jeurissen, MD, PhD,<sup>b,c</sup> Marie-José Thelissen,<sup>b</sup> Chris Vanhole, MD, PhD,<sup>a</sup> and Annette Schuermans, MD, PhD<sup>b</sup>  
Leuven and Wilrijk, Belgium

With the increasing use of human milk and growing evidence of the benefits of mother's milk for preterm and ill newborns, guidelines to ensure its quality and safety are an important part of daily practice in neonatal intensive care units. Operating procedures based on hazard analysis and critical control points can standardize the handling of mother's expressed milk, thereby improving nutrition and minimizing the risk of breast milk-induced infection in susceptible newborns. Because breast milk is not sterile, microorganisms can multiply when the milk is not handled properly. Additional exogenous contamination should be prevented. Strict hygiene and careful temperature and time control are important during the expression, collection, transport, storage, and feeding of maternal milk. In contrast to formula milk, no legal standards exist for the use of expressed maternal milk. The need for additional measures, such as bacteriological screening or heat treatment, remains unresolved.

**Key Words:** NICU; infection control; mother's milk; quality control.

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# Steps to control critical points of expressed breast milk

Table I. HACCP plan for expressed breast milk

Steps in the process	Potential hazards	Control measures	Control point	CCP
Milk expression and collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hands may touch breast and milk during pumping. Breasts or nipples may be colonized or infected.</li> <li>• Pump may be contaminated with pathogens (exterior and interior; backflow of aerosol of milk).</li> <li>• Accessory kits may be contaminated.</li> <li>• Milk not placed in cool storage after expression.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach mothers to perform careful hygiene of hands before expressing or handling milk, as well as daily hygiene of breasts.</li> <li>• Use a correctly designed type of pump with separated internal circuits and a safety valve. Perform regular pump cleaning and maintenance.</li> <li>• Thermal disinfection of shields and other parts in contact with milk after each use. Use clean disposable or sterile bottles or containers.</li> <li>• Educate parents to refrigerate or freeze the milk within 1 hour.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No compliance with hygienic advice.</li> <li>• Visibly not clean.</li> <li>• Visibly not clean.</li> </ul>	

Cossey V. *Am J Infect Control* 2011;

## Steps to control critical points of expressed breast milk

Steps in the process	Potential hazards	Control measures	Control point	CCP
Milk transfer to the unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth of microorganisms if a break in cold chain occurs.</li> <li>• Contamination of bottles.</li> <li>• No or poor identification on</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information regarding appropriate storage conditions for transporting milk in an icebox or isothermal bag.</li> <li>• Educate parents about general hygiene and the use of a clean transfer box.</li> <li>• Check name, date and time of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visibly not clean.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Partially) thawed milk at arrival (visual inspection)</li> <li>• Missing labels.</li> </ul>

*Cossey V. Am J Infect Control 2011;*

# Steps to control critical points of expressed breast milk



Steps in the process	Potential hazards	Control measures	Control point	CCP
Storage in the unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exceeding storage time and risk for contamination.</li> <li>First-in, first-out principle may not be followed.</li> <li>Temperature of refrigerator is too high.</li> <li>Temperature of freezer is too high.</li> <li>Other products or dirt in freezer or refrigerator may contaminate the milk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use fresh milk within 48 hours. Freeze milk that will not be used within 48 hours. Use thawed milk within 24 hours. Use frozen milk within 3 months.</li> <li>Place newly delivered milk at the back of the drawer in the freezer. Label containers clearly with waterproof ink.</li> <li>Keep doors closed. Monitor core temperature continuously with central alarm connected to the hospital building management system. Calibrate the logger system regularly. Control environmental</li> <li>Keep doors closed. Monitor temperature continuously with central alarm connected to the hospital building management system. Clean and defrost periodically and whenever visually contaminated.</li> <li>Keep a freezer and refrigerator in a secure room exclusively dedicated to milk. Clean daily.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each deviation from chronologic rank.</li> <li>Core temperature <math>&gt; 5^{\circ}\text{C}</math>.</li> <li><math>&gt; 1\text{ cm}</math> of ice or visibly not clean. Temperature <math>&gt; -15^{\circ}\text{C}</math>.</li> <li>Visibly not clean.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storage <math>&gt; 48</math> hours if fresh milk; <math>&gt; 24</math> hours if thawed milk; <math>&gt; 3</math> months if frozen milk.</li> <li>Core temperature <math>&gt; 7^{\circ}\text{C}</math></li> <li>(Partially) thawed milk.</li> </ul>



# Steps to control critical points of expressed breast milk

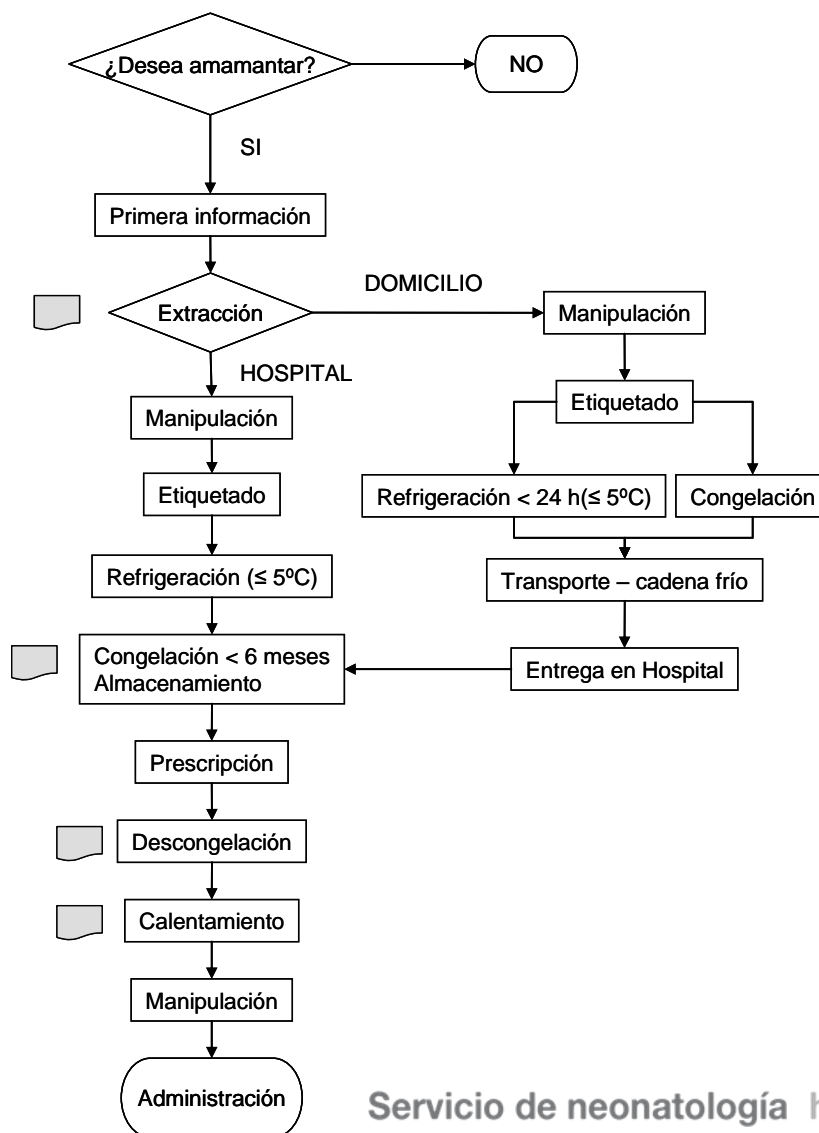
## Guidelines

Expression, storage and administration of breast milk to babies hospitalized in the neonatology unit using their own mothers' milk

*Year 2009*

# Steps to control critical points of expressed breast milk

## 4.- Diagrama de flujo del proceso antes de la vía clínica



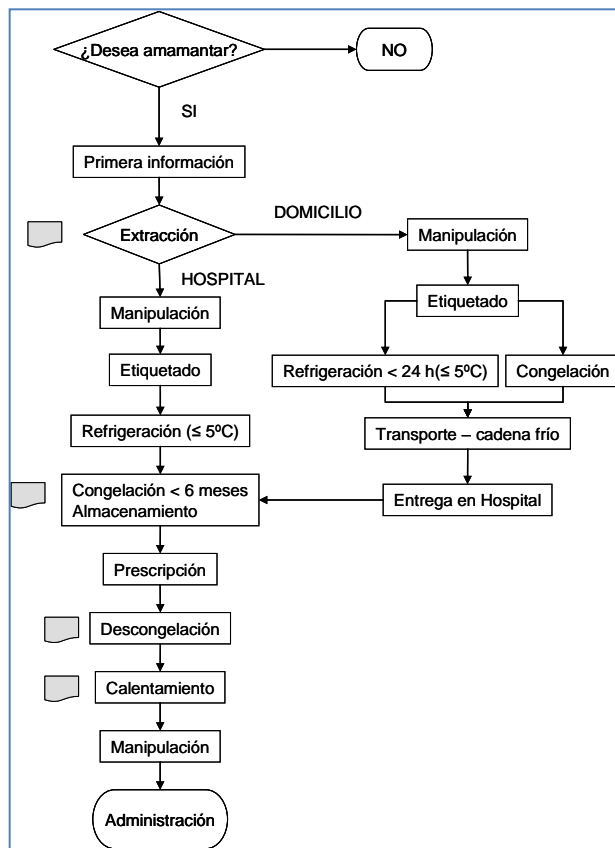
# Conclusions



- Mother's milk undergoes multiple procedures in neonatal units with little control or standardization
- Little is known about the optimum conditions for milk expression. The maximum volume of milk may possibly be obtained after kangaroo care.
- During freezing and refrigeration, certain biological activity occurring in mothers' milk, produces a modification in quality of the milk.
- The consequences of defrosting have been little studied.
- Despite the great concern in all units regarding the growth of preterm babies, a significant part of the nutritional value of the milk may be lost during administration.

# Conclusions

The sum of procedures = The sum of consequences in the milk



# Final Comments



- We do not fully understand which elements in mothers' milk are responsible for some of the multiple benefits found in human milk.

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**The more the milk is subject to change, the greater the risk of altering or losing these elements.**

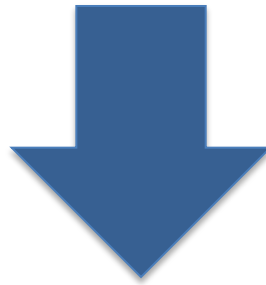
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Let's not deprive the most vulnerable preterm babies of all the potential benefits of mother's milk