Clinical Update

Oral Therapy and The Use of Mother's Milk for the Treatment of Neonates

Oropharyngeal Administration of Colostrum

Extremely/Very Low Birthweight Babies

Oral Therapy

Oropharyngeal Administration of Mother's Milk

NPO and Non-Orally Feeding Babies Oral Hygiene

All Orally and Non-Orally Feeding Babies

Expected Benefits

Exposure to Biofactors/Immune Agents

Coat the oral cavity with sIgA, interleukins lactoferrin, lysozyme and oligosaccharides.

Developmental Support

Introduce taste & smell of mother's milk to encourage maternal bonding, development of non-nutritive sucking, and calming/soothing.

Infection Prevention

Regular cleaning and moisturizing help reduce the possibility of healthcare-acquired infection and maintain good oral tissue health.

Expected Outcomes

Reduced time to oral feeds

Reduced time to enteral feeds

Shorter length of stay

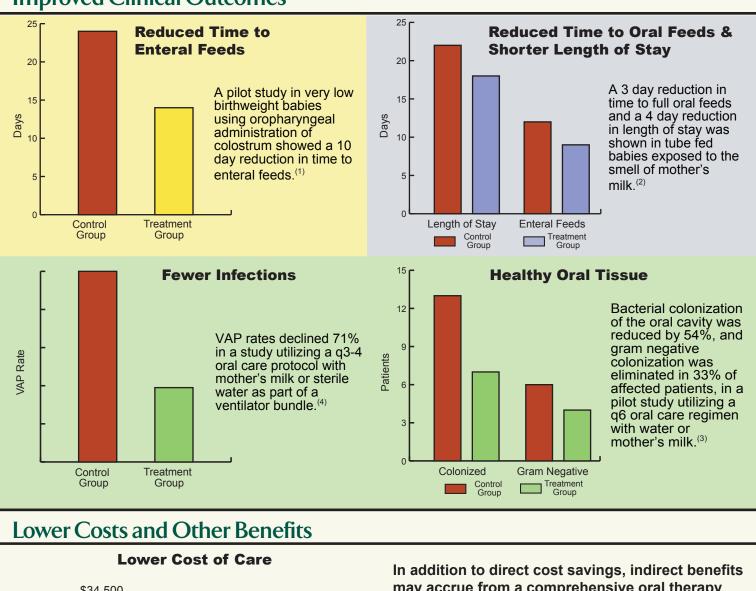
Healthy oral tissue

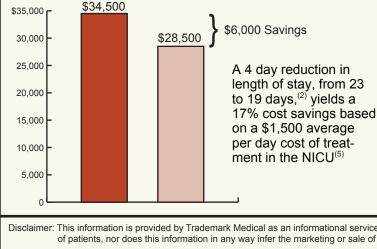
Fewer infections

Lower cost of care

The Potential Impact of Oral Therapy

Improved Clinical Outcomes





may accrue from a comprehensive oral therapy program:

- Oral aversion may be mitigated by introducing the taste of mother's milk.
- Non-nutritive sucking may be stimulated.
- Maternal bonding is encouraged both by acclimating the baby to the mother's smell, and by parental participation in oral therapy.
- Babies may be calmed and comforted by mother's milk.

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2. Yildiz, A. The Effect of the Odor of Breast Milk on the Time Needed for Transition From Gavage to Total Oral Feeding in Preterm Infants. Journal Nursing Scholarship, 2011: 43:3, 265-273.

3. Wilson, S. et al Oral Care in the Neonate: One Step in a Bundle To Reduce Ventilator Associated Pneumonia (VAP). Pediatric Academic Societies Poster Session E-PAS2012:1519.349. 4. Ceballos, K. et al., Nurse-Driven Quality Improvement Interventions to Reduce Hospital-Acquired Infection in the NICU. Advances in Neonatal Care 2013 Vol 13, No. 3 pp 154-163.

5. Russell, B et al., Cost of Hospitalization for Preterm and Low Birthweight Infants in the United States. Pediatrics 2007; Volume 120, Number 1 July 2007:e1-e9.

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