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Correspondence

Delayed umbilical cord clamping and breastfeeding after childbirth in mothers affected by COVID 19: Recommended or not?



Dear Editor

COVID-19, as a global crisis, affects all age groups [1]. Newborns are more vulnerable to the potential consequence of the novel coronavirus due to their immature immune systems [2]. There have been several reports about COVID-19 pneumonia in newborns and two infants 36 h after birth in positive mothers [3–5]. But there is insufficient evidence for vertical transmission from mother to fetus via amniotic fluid, umbilical blood or breast milk [6]. However, due to the novelty of this virus and vulnerability of the fetus, this evidence is not reliable. Therefore, since the respiratory droplets are major way to transmission of the virus to infant [7] during the delivery process, early cord clamping, immediate isolation of the newborn, and lack of skin-to-skin contact can reduce the newborn's infection.

Also, mother's with good general condition, can breastfeed the newborn by observing the principles of protection (washing hands and wearing a mask). If the mother is ill and hospitalized in the infectious or intensive care unit, because it is not possible to be present in the mother's bed, neonate feed by formula.

Declaration of Competing Interest

Authors have no conflict of interest

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Shahnaz Kohan

Associate professor, PhD in reproductive health, Nursing and Midwifery Care Research Center, Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran

Fatemeh Alsadat Rahnemaie*

MsC of Midwifery, Midwifery and Reproductive Health Research Center, Department of Midwifery and Reproductive Health, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: f_rahnamaie@yahoo.com (F. Rahnemaie).

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