

# A Neurobehavioral Approach to Breastfeeding



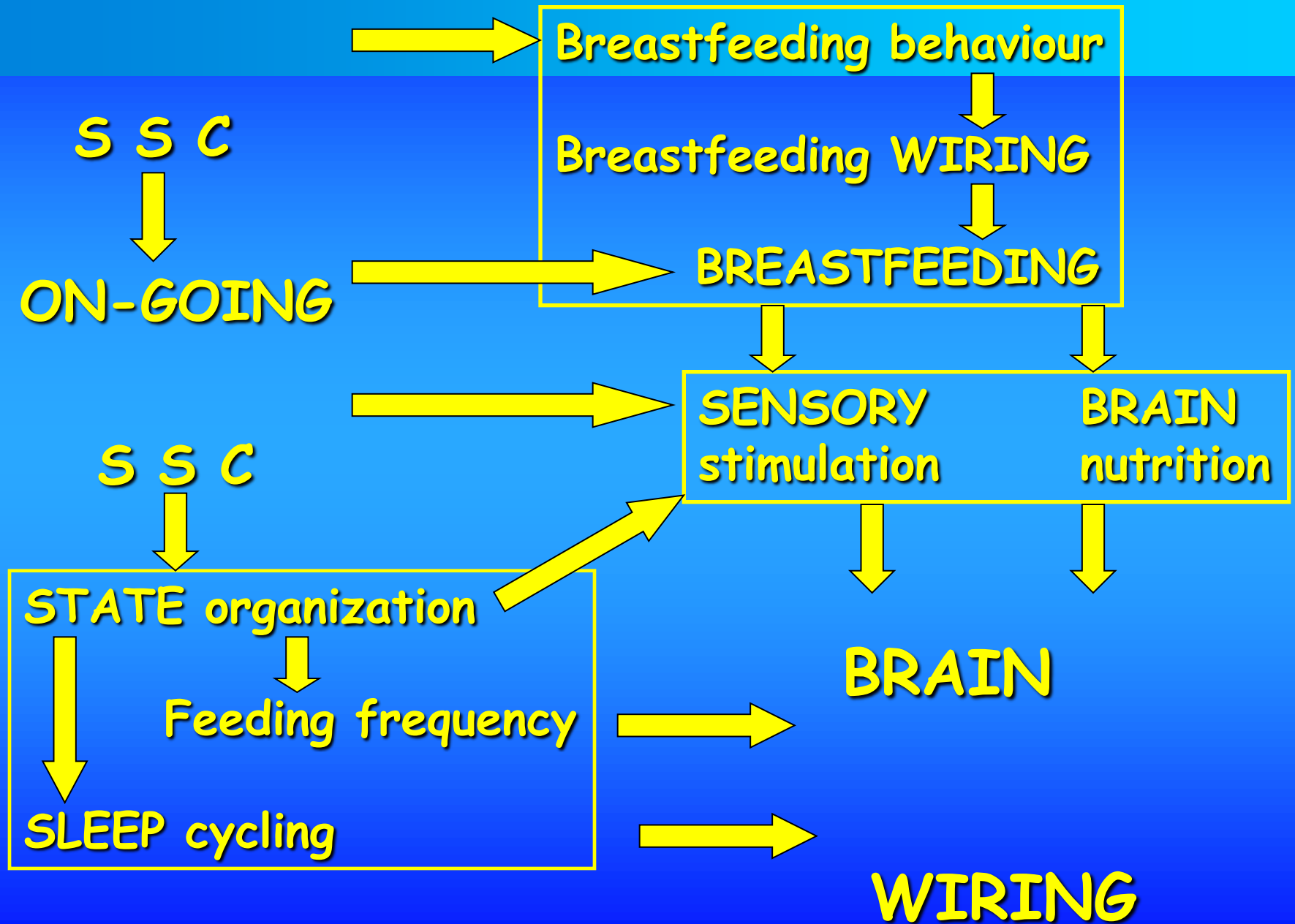
Dr Nils Bergman

*"M.D., D.C.H., M.P.H., Ph.D."*

Cape Town, South Africa

[www.kangaroomothercare.com](http://www.kangaroomothercare.com)

# BIRTH



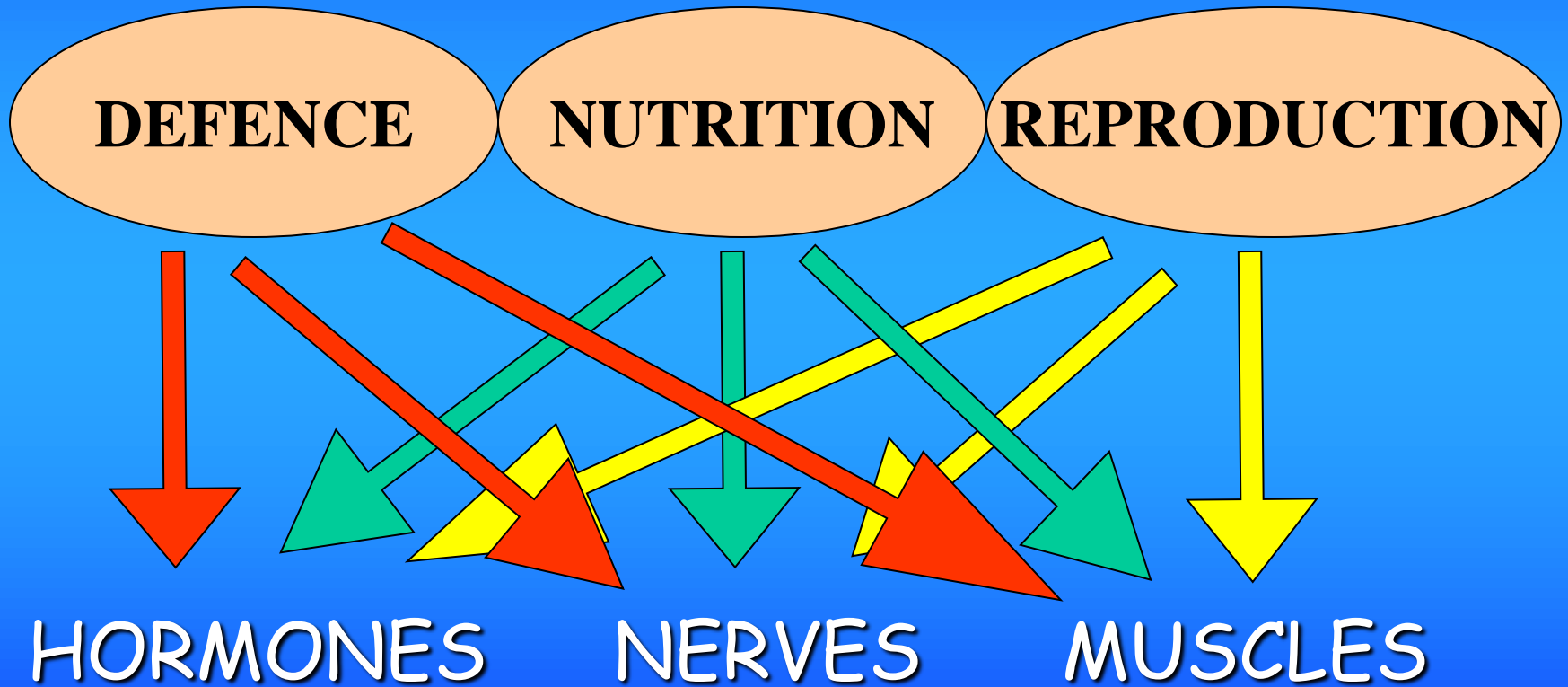
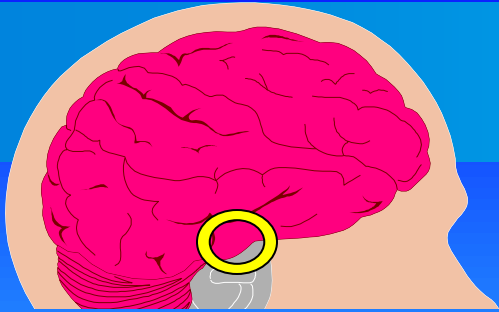
# THE "OLD" BRAIN HAS 3 PROGRAMMES

A diagram showing a pink brain inside a tan-colored head silhouette. A yellow line with a circle at the base of the brainstem branches out into three yellow arrows pointing down to three tan ovals. The background is blue with a light blue gradient at the top.

**DEFENCE**

**NUTRITION**

**REPRODUCTION**





The neurobehavioural  
programmes originate in the  
**LIMBIC SYSTEM**

Expressed through  
hypothalamus  
(autonomic nervous system)

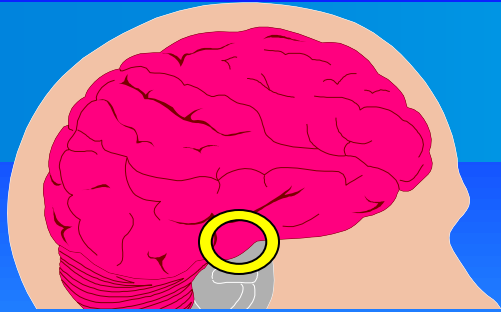
**NEURO**

hypophysis  
(endocrine system, hormones)

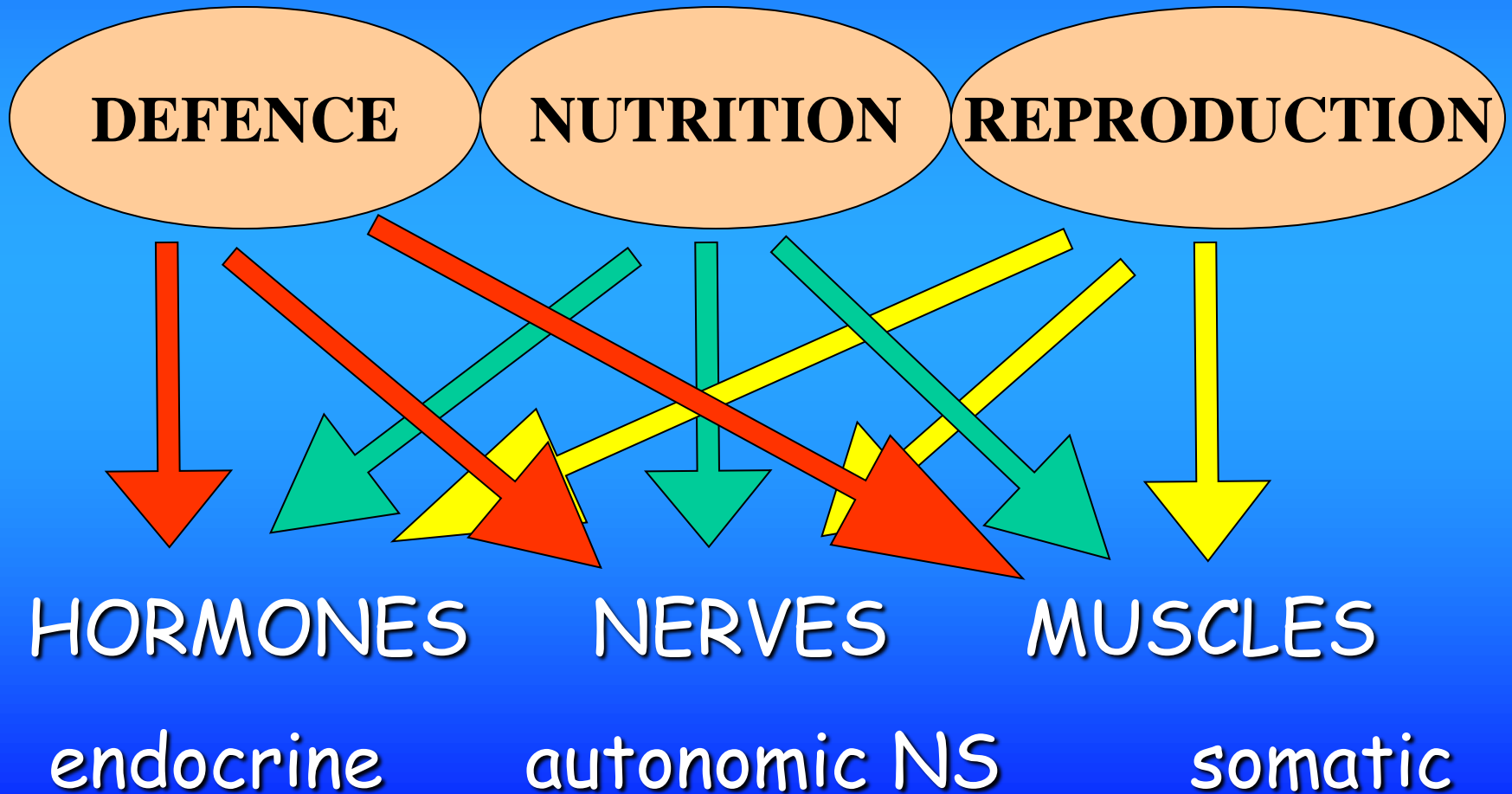
**ENDOCRINE**

cerebellum etc  
(somatic system)

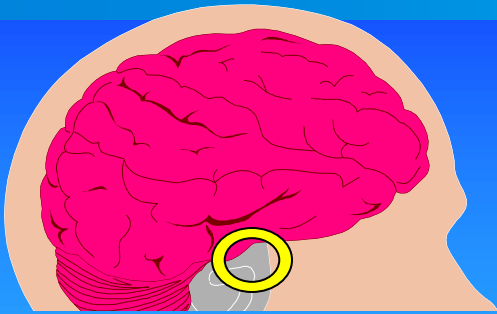
**BEHAVIOR**



# HIGHLY CONSERVED NEURO-ENDOCRINE BEHAVIOR



# HIGHLY CONSERVED NEURO-ENDOCRINE BEHAVIOR



**DEFENCE**

**NUTRITION**

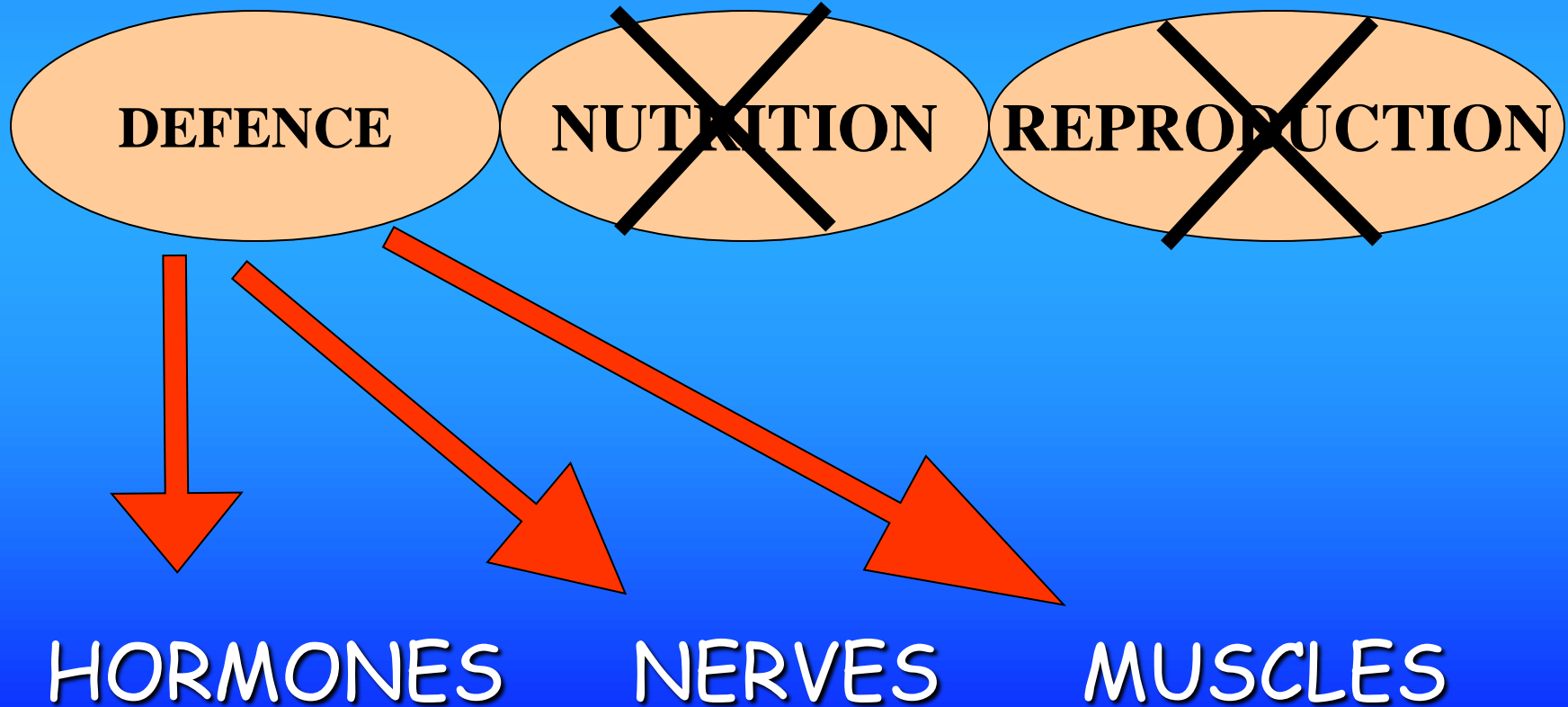
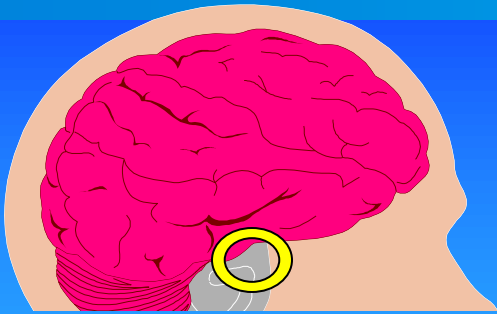
**REPRODUCTION**

**HORMONES**

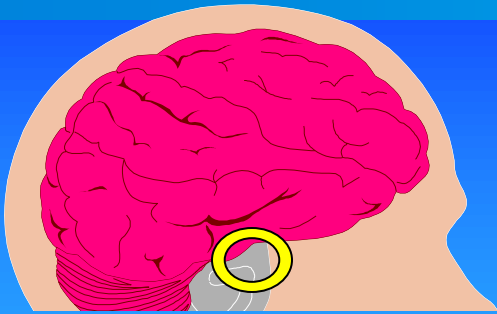
**NERVES**

**MUSCLES**

# HIGHLY CONSERVED NEURO-ENDOCRINE BEHAVIOR



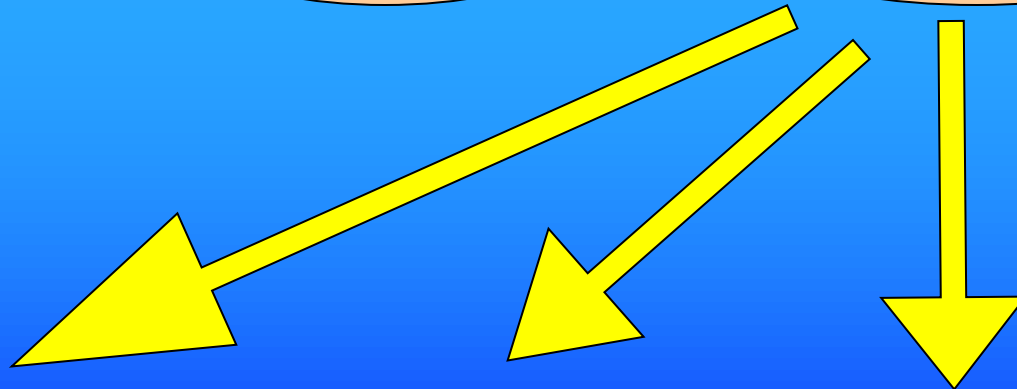
# HIGHLY CONSERVED NEURO-ENDOCRINE BEHAVIOR



**DEFENCE**

**NUTRITION**

**REPRODUCTION**

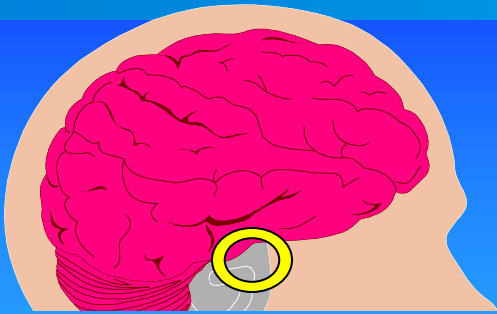


**HORMONES**

**NERVES**

**MUSCLES**

# HIGHLY CONSERVED NEURO-ENDOCRINE BEHAVIOR



HORMONES

NERVES

MUSCLES

WHOLE BODY

Clinics in Perinatology,  
June 2004, Vol 31(2) page 210  
Stanley Graven  
*Early neurosensory visual  
development of fetus and newborn.*

“It is a serious mistake to assume that the principles derived from careful animal studies do not apply to human infants.

The risk of suppression or disruption of

needed neural processes ...

is very significant and potentially lasts a life time.

All mammals have set sequence  
of behaviours at birth .....

..... All with a  
single purpose : to

**BREASTFEED**



After birth, events are  
determined ...

... by the neonate  
stimulating the mother!

(Rosenblatt 1994)

Breast-feeding is “established through a set of mutual, complex sensory stimulations in mother and child.”

(Kjellmer & Winberg 1994)

HABITAT  
DETERMINES  
BEHAVIOUR

BEHAVIOUR  
ENSURES

BIOLOGICAL  
NEEDS

Warming, feeding and protection **behaviours** are intricately, inseparably linked to the right place.

(Alberts 1994)

**= NUTRITION PROGRAMME**

In all mammals .....

.... the newborn is  
responsible for  
initiating  
breastfeeding,

not the mother !!

In all mammals .....

.... the newborn is  
responsible for  
initiating  
breastfeeding,

not the mother !!

EXCEPT IN HUMAN ???

# Sequence human newborn breast-feeding

Pre-requisite = habitat

hand to mouth

tongue moves

mouth moves

eye focuses nipple

crawls to nipple

latches to nipple

suckles

(Widstrom et al 1994)



REGULAR ARTICLE

# Newborn behaviour to locate the breast when skin-to-skin: a possible method for enabling early self-regulation

A-M Widström (ann-marie.widstrom@ki.se)<sup>1</sup>, G Lilja<sup>2</sup>, P Aaltomaa-Michalias<sup>3</sup>, A Dahllöf<sup>3</sup>, M Lintula<sup>4</sup>, E Nissen<sup>1,5</sup>

**Conclusion:** Inborn breastfeeding reflexes were depressed at birth, possibly because of a depressed sensory system. It is hypothesized that when the infant is given the option to peacefully go through the nine behavioural phases birth cry, relaxation, awakening, activity, crawling, resting, familiarization, suckling and sleeping when skin-to-skin with its mother this results in early optimal self-regulation.

**Table 2** Definitions of behaviours not restricted to a specific phase

Behaviours	Definition
Eyes	Closed or opened Looks mainly at mother's breast Looks mainly in the direction of the mother's face
Soliciting sounds	An affirmative, short, ringing so sound
Hand-to-mouth	Hand in/or touching the mouth
Hand-breast-mouth	Infant moves hand across mother's breast and brushes the nipple/areola and brings hand to mouth
Rooting	Twisting movement where face is brought across or lifted above mother's chest and turned to side or hand
Rocking/pushing	Rocking activity without shifting position

**Table 1** Definition of phases/behaviours identified

Phases	Behaviours
Birth cry	Intense crying just after birth
Relaxation phase	Infant resting/recovering. No activity of mouth, head, arms, legs or body
Awakening phase	Infant begins to show signs of activity. Small thrusts of head: up, down, from side-to-side. Small movements of limbs and shoulders
Active phase	Infant moves limbs and head, is more determined in movements. Rooting activity, 'pushing' with limbs without shifting body
Crawling phase	'Pushing' which results in shifting body
Resting phase	Infant rests, with some activity, such as mouth activity, sucks on hand
Familiarization	Infant has reached areola/nipple with mouth positioned to brush and lick areola/nipple
Suckling phase	Infant has taken nipple in mouth and commences suckling
Sleeping phase	The baby has closed its eyes

“The newborn may appear helpless, but displays an impressive and purposeful motor activity which, **without maternal assistance**, brings the baby to the nipple.

(Michelson et al 1996)

“The newborn may appear helpless, but

raises its own temperature,  
has a higher blood glucose,  
metabolic adaptation faster.

(Widstrom 1987)

# METABOLIC ADAPTATION

SSC started in the first  
20 minutes after birth

	<u>SSC</u>	<u>Cot</u>
Blood glucose (1 hr)	3.17	2.56
Base excess drop	3.4	1.8

(Christenson 1992)

Warming,  
feeding and  
protection  
behaviours are  
intricately, inseparably  
linked to the right place.

(Alberts 1994)

Animal literature does not talk  
about mammalian lactation,  
it talks about mammalian birth.

Ruin the birth - and  
there is no lactation  
With a good birth,  
lactation follows

Diane Weissinger

PSN envisions a community that  
embraces its mothers and babies, and  
**values the unique  
opportunity at birth**  
to impact the physical and emotional  
well-being of the newborn.



# Target #1 for 2005:

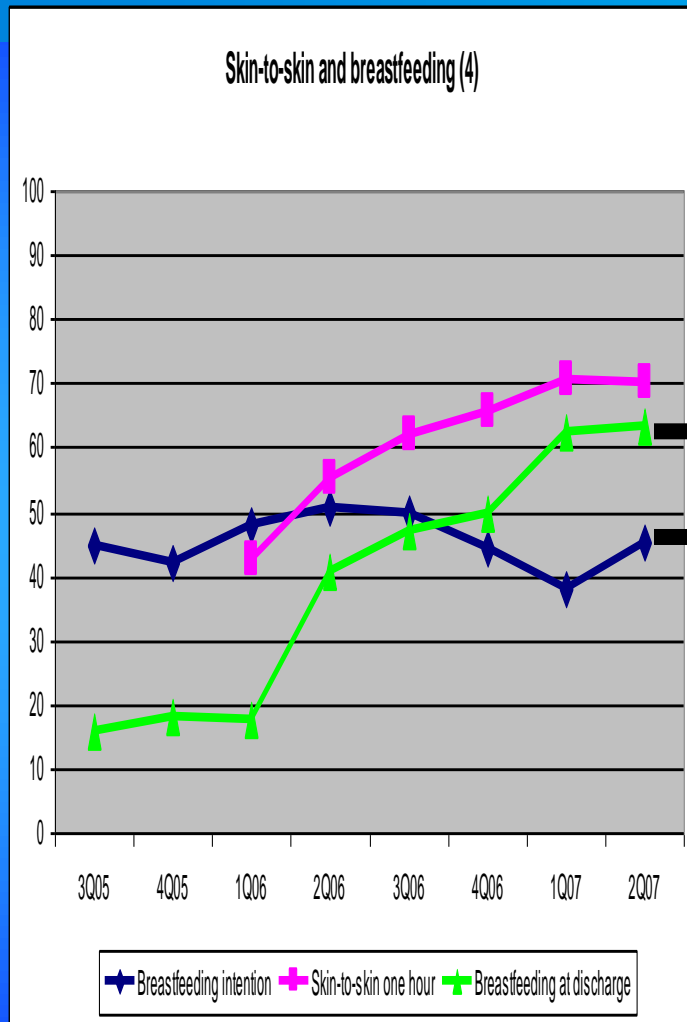
Report that 65% of infants are placed and remain in

**direct skin to skin contact**

with their mothers

**for at least one hour**

during the first 3 hours after birth.



**Babies breastfeeding**

**Mothers intending to breastfeed**

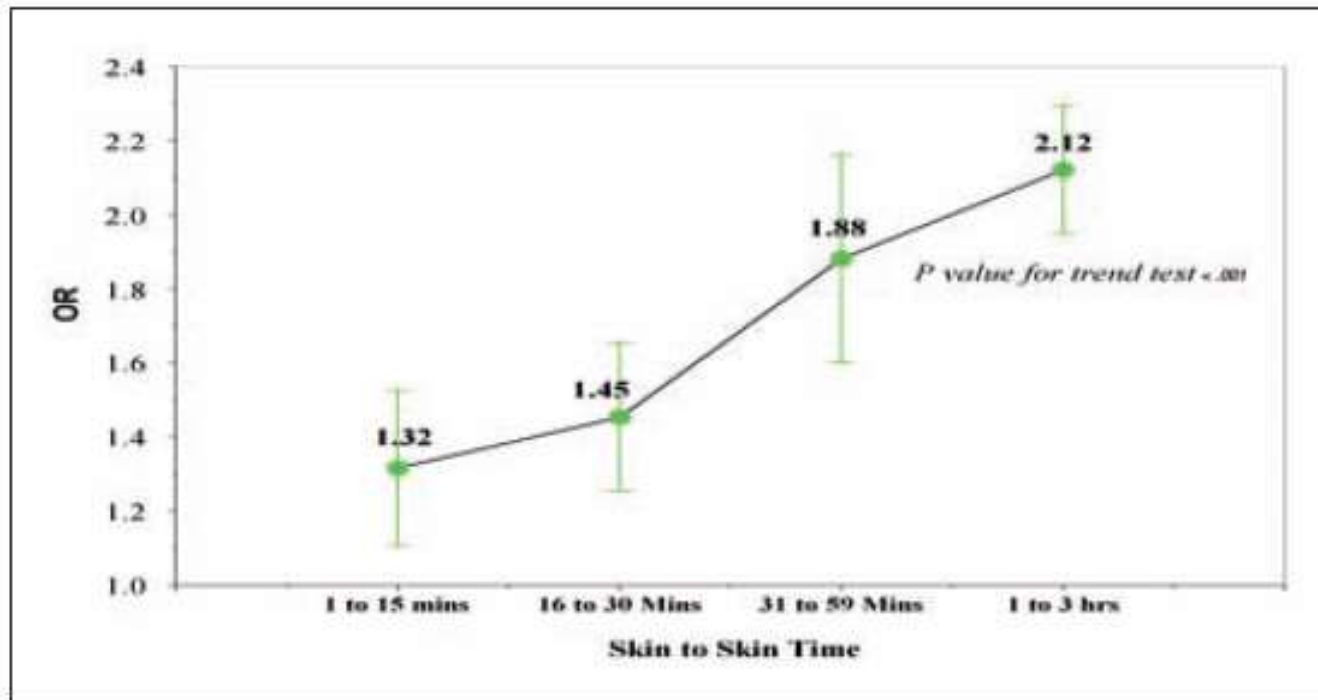
Used with permission: Ruth Stanhiser, MD

# Journal of Human Lactation

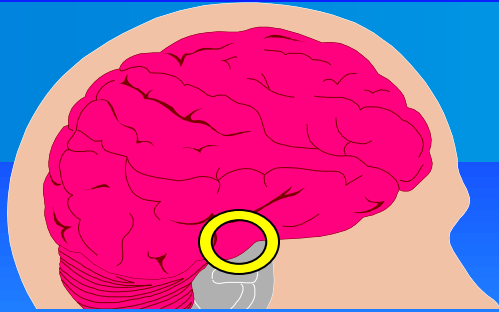
<http://jhl.sagepub.com>

## Effect of Early Skin-to-Skin Mother Infant Contact During the First 3 Hours Following Birth on Exclusive Breastfeeding During the Maternity Hospital Stay

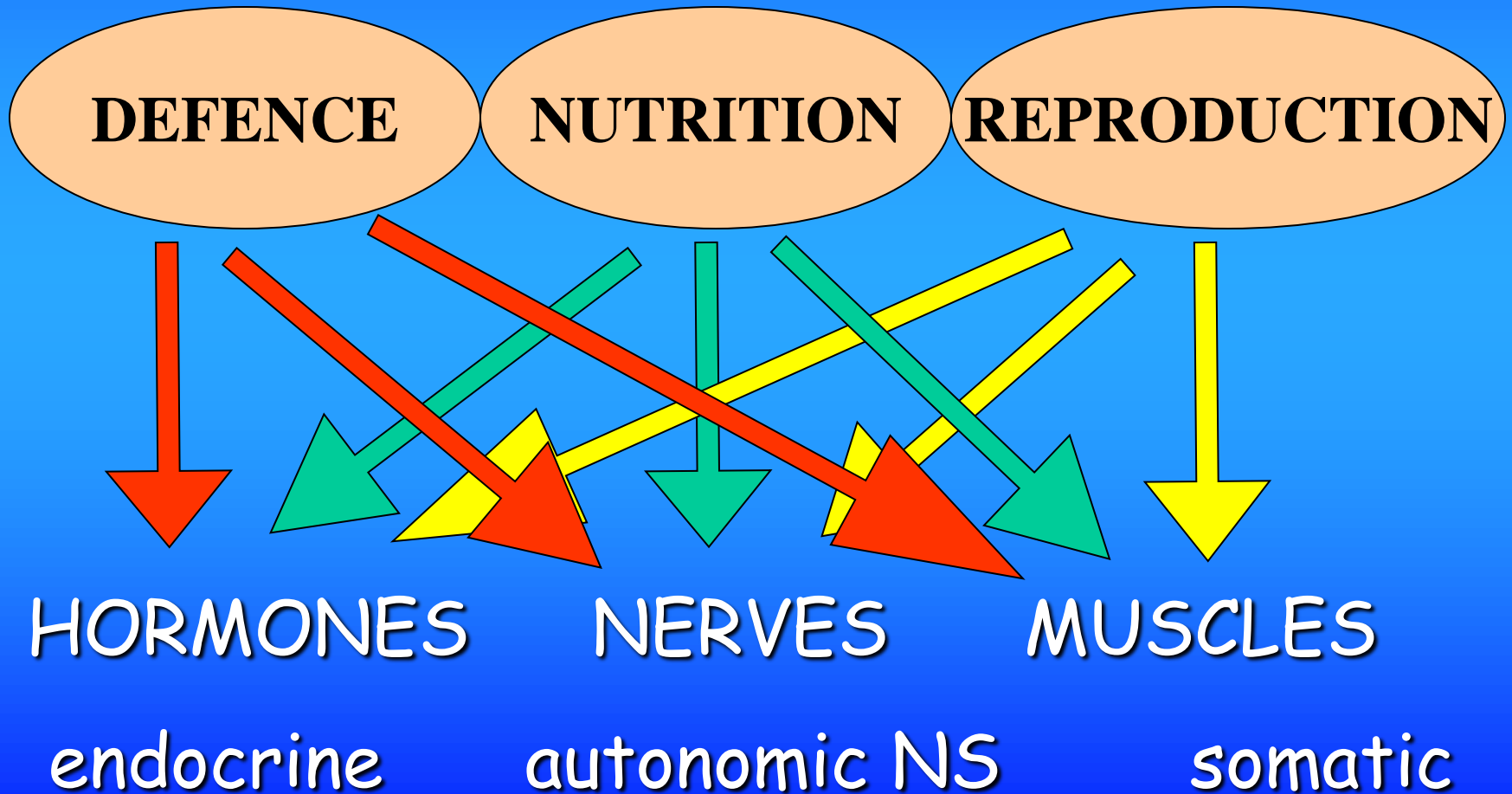
Leslie Bramson, Jerry W. Lee, Elizabeth Moore, Susanne Montgomery, Christine Neish, Khaled Bahjri and Carolyn Lopez



More skin-to-skin → more breastfeeding

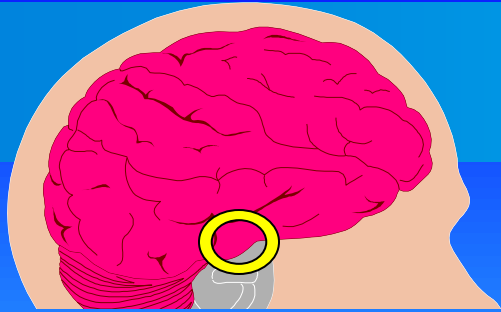


... highly conserved  
neuro-endocrine behaviors

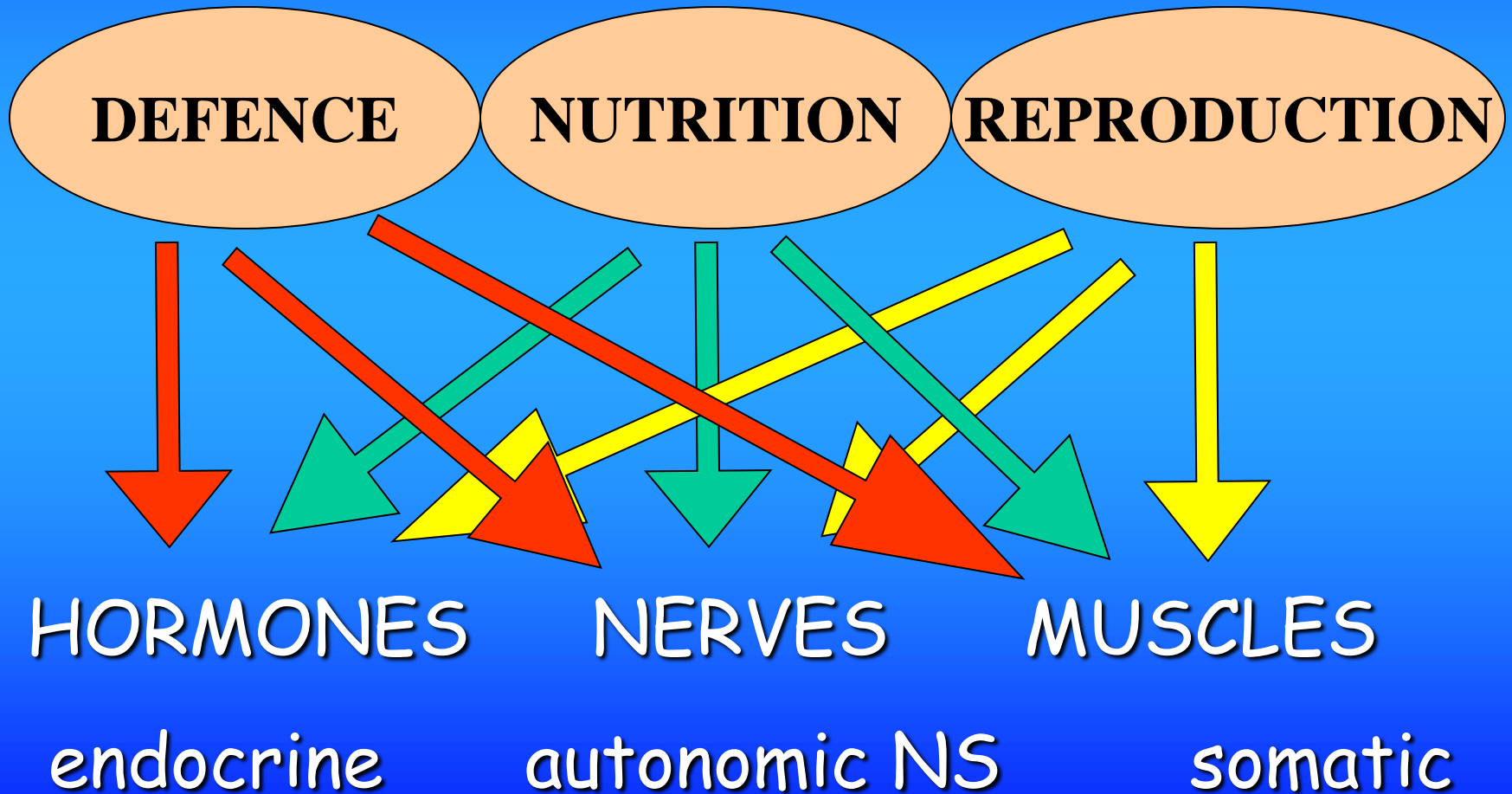


BREASTFEEDING  
IS A BEHAVIOUR  
OF THE NEWBORN

Not the mother !!



... highly conserved  
neuro-endocrine behaviors



Animal literature does not talk  
about mammalian lactation,  
it talks about mammalian birth.

Ruin the birth - and  
there is no lactation  
With a good birth,  
lactation follows

Diane Weissinger

# BREASTFEEDING THE PREMATURE

Premature babies will need help.

BERLITH PERSSON

has provided that help ...



## PERSSON'S WHEEL !



# KERSTIN HEDBERG-NYQVIST:

(Early Human Dev 55 (1999) 247 -264.)

## PIBBS

### Preterm Infant Breastfeeding Behaviour Scale

rooting	0 - 2
areolar grasp	0 - 3
latch (and fixation) time	0 - 3
sucking	0 - 4
longest sucking burst	1 - 6
swallowing	0 - 2

# KERSTIN HEDBERG-NYQVIST:

## PIBBS

### Preterm Infant Breastfeeding Behaviour Scale

Nutritive sucking = >5ml swallowed

Full breastfeeding = exclusive Brf

# KERSTIN HEDBERG-NYQVIST:

(Early Human Dev 55 (1999) 247 -264.)

## PIBBS

Preterm Infant Breastfeeding Behaviour Scale

EARLIEST OBSERVATION:

(weeks PMA) 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36

rooting

90%

grasp

50%

latch

95%

sucking

90%

Nutritive

swallow

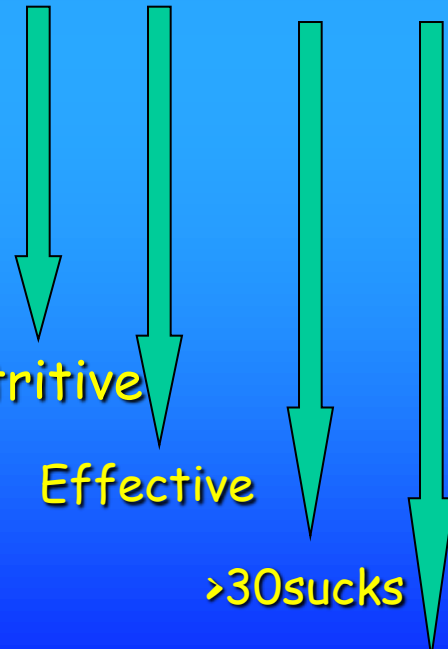
Effective

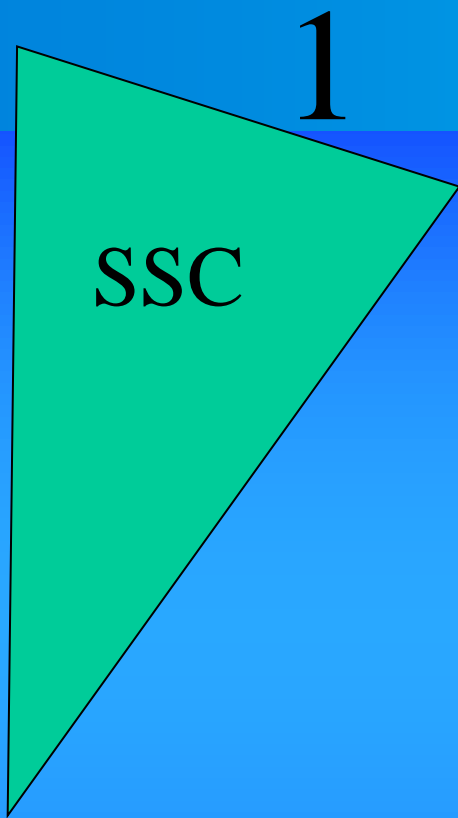
burst

>30sucks

Full breastfeeding

33w





## Step 1

## SKIN-TO-SKIN

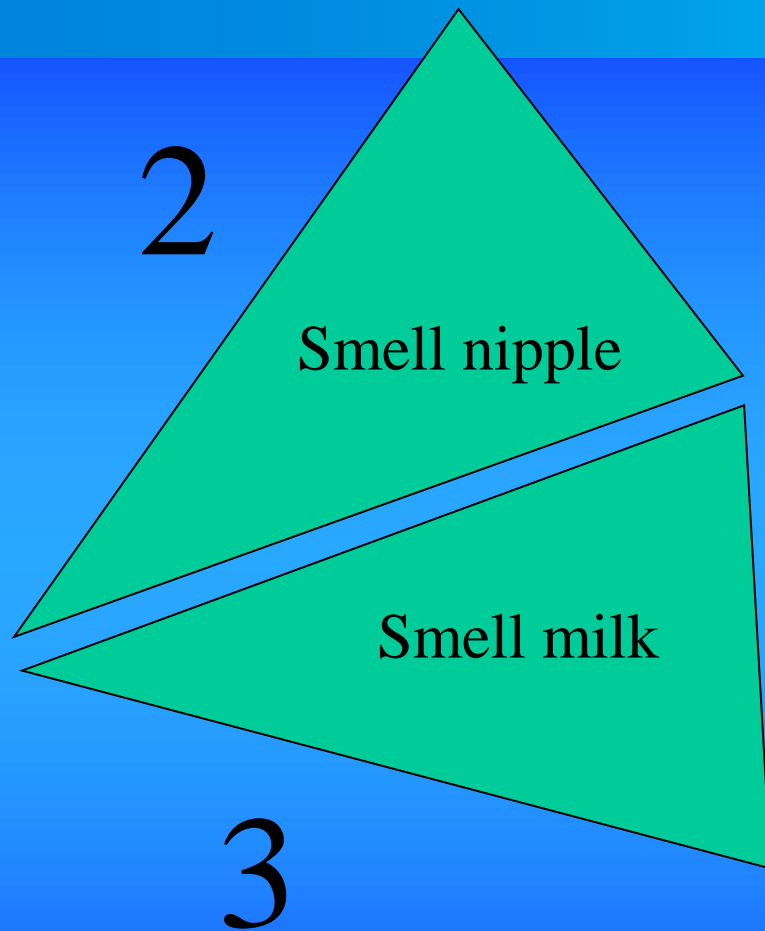
**Continuous skin contact**

**The newborn must be in the right environment for the behaviours that it is capable of to be expressed. It requires protection from stress and provision of warmth.**

**KMC provides the “maternal nest”**

**Ideally this should be done on prematures AT BIRTH. However it can be done later, even with nasogastric tube providing expressed breast milk in the meantime**

## Step 2 and 3 Olfactory

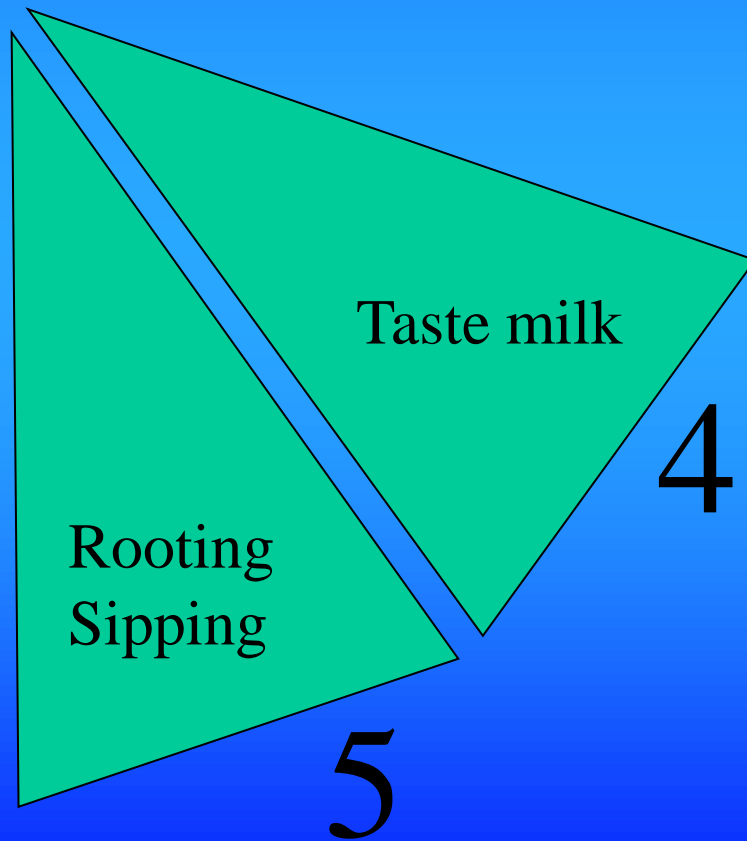


The first steps in sequence require smell of the nipple which may take longer in the premature, and then the smelling of milk.

Babies can identify smells and tastes from their time in the uterus in the mother's milk!

## Step 4 Taste

This is re-inforcing the smell.  
Fullterm seems to skip this!



## Step 5 Rooting

These are mouth movements  
the normal sequence  
described in the full-terms.

Here the premature  
requires help, with position  
and “sipping”  
= feeling milk in mouth

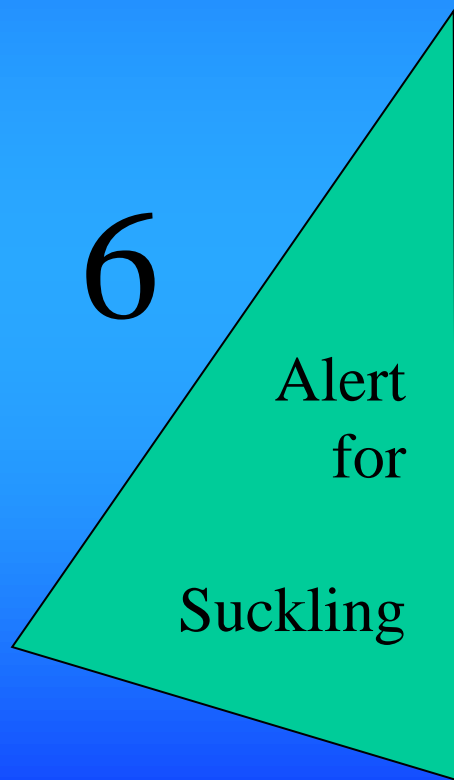
## Step 6 First suckling.

**Key step, builds on steps 1 to 5.**

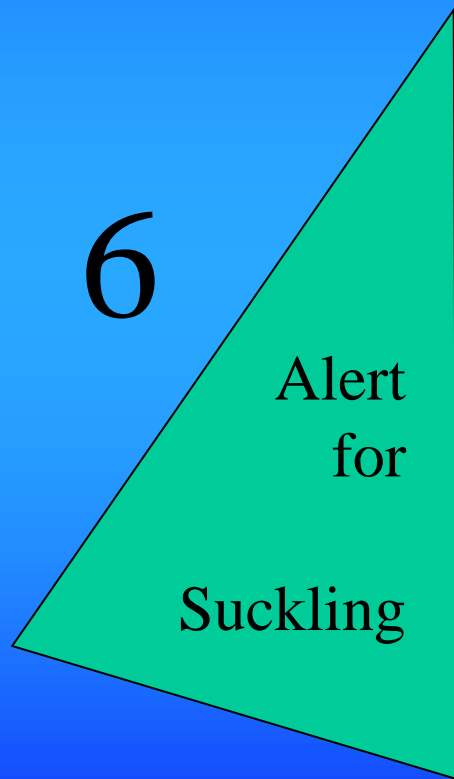
**Must be awake and alert.**

**Alert period is maximal at birth,  
and lasts 45 - 90 minutes.**

**If missed then, will require feeding,  
and several hours delay.**



## Step 6 First suckling.



**Note difference suckling vs sucking!**

**“ ... myographically distinct”**

**For late premature lactation, allow suckling to develop in successive alert periods, while feeding by tube.**



# Breastfeeding & Suckling

From 16 or 20 weeks gestation,  
the fetus is swallowing.

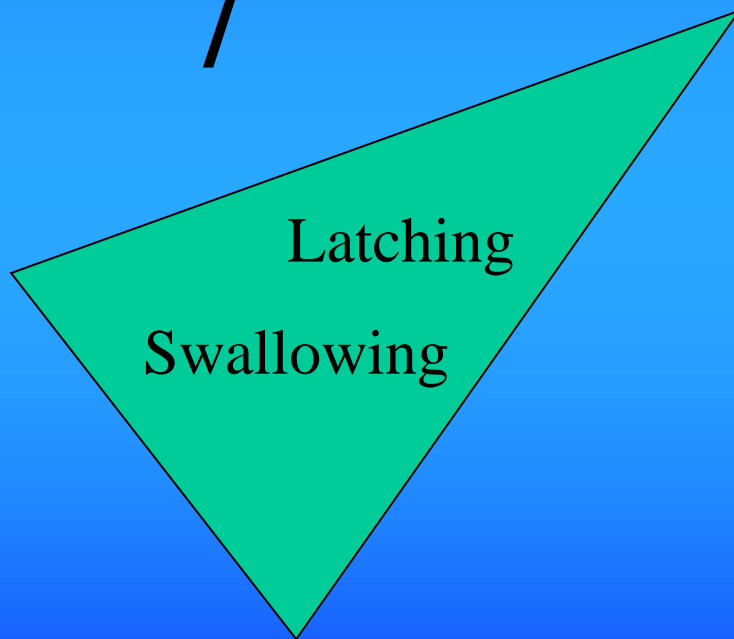
From 26 or 28 weeks gestation  
the fetus can SUCKLE

From 36 weeks gestation the  
fetus is able to SUCK

SUCKING and SUCKLING  
sound same, but VERY different

## Step 7 Latching & swallowing

7



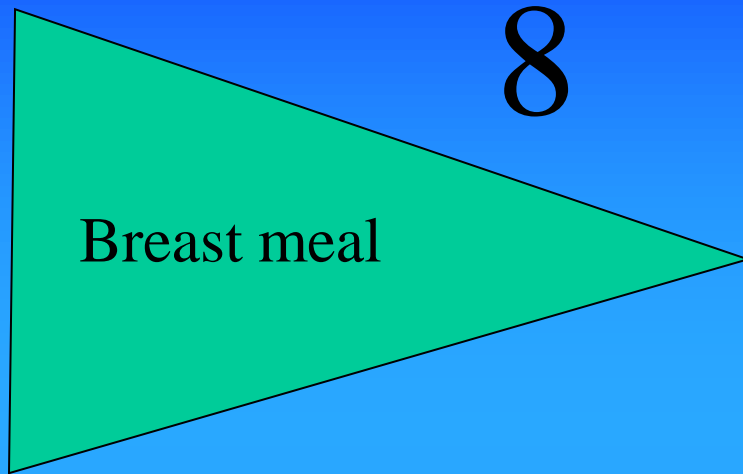
Premature is too physically weak to crawl to nipple, but if held to nipple will at this stage latch on.

Once latched, suckling follows.

Suckling squirts a controlled dose of milk to the back of throat, which is safely swallowed without any interference of breathing

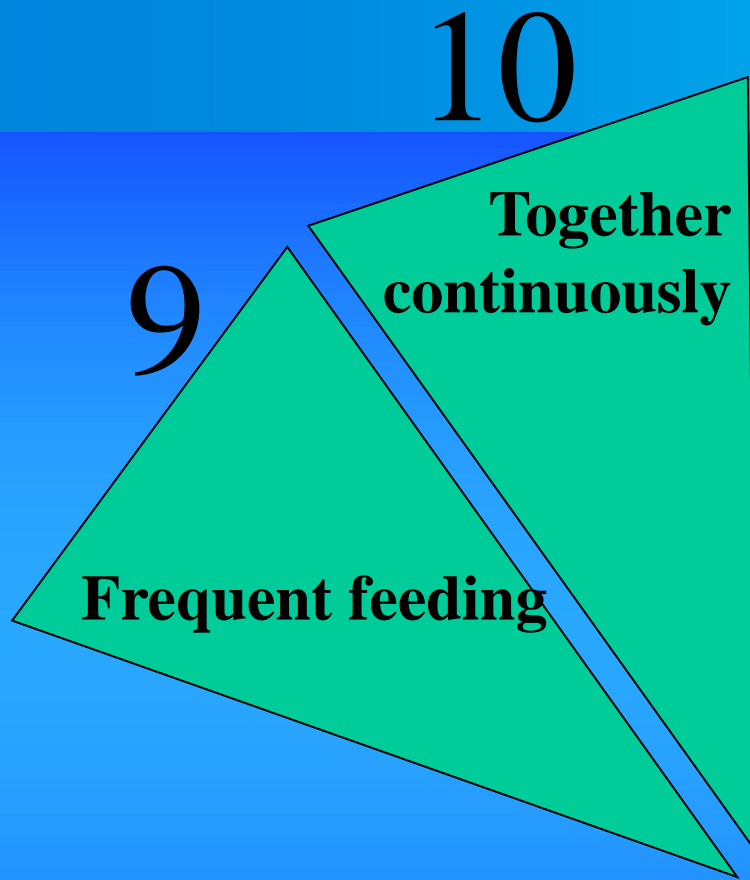
**This is INNATE.**

## Step 8 First breast milk meal.



Steps 1 to 7 and on take place rapidly in the fullterm.

They can occur in the first alert period after birth in a premature if allowed to, but may require a longer period of defined steps in successive alert periods. For late prem lactation, step 8 is the first time milk is swallowed Enough to feed the baby.



## Step 9 Frequent feeding

In utero, baby is feeding  
Continuously.

Demand feeding  
is **NOT SUITABLE** for  
prematures.

Feeds should be at  
most 2 hours apart.

## Step 10

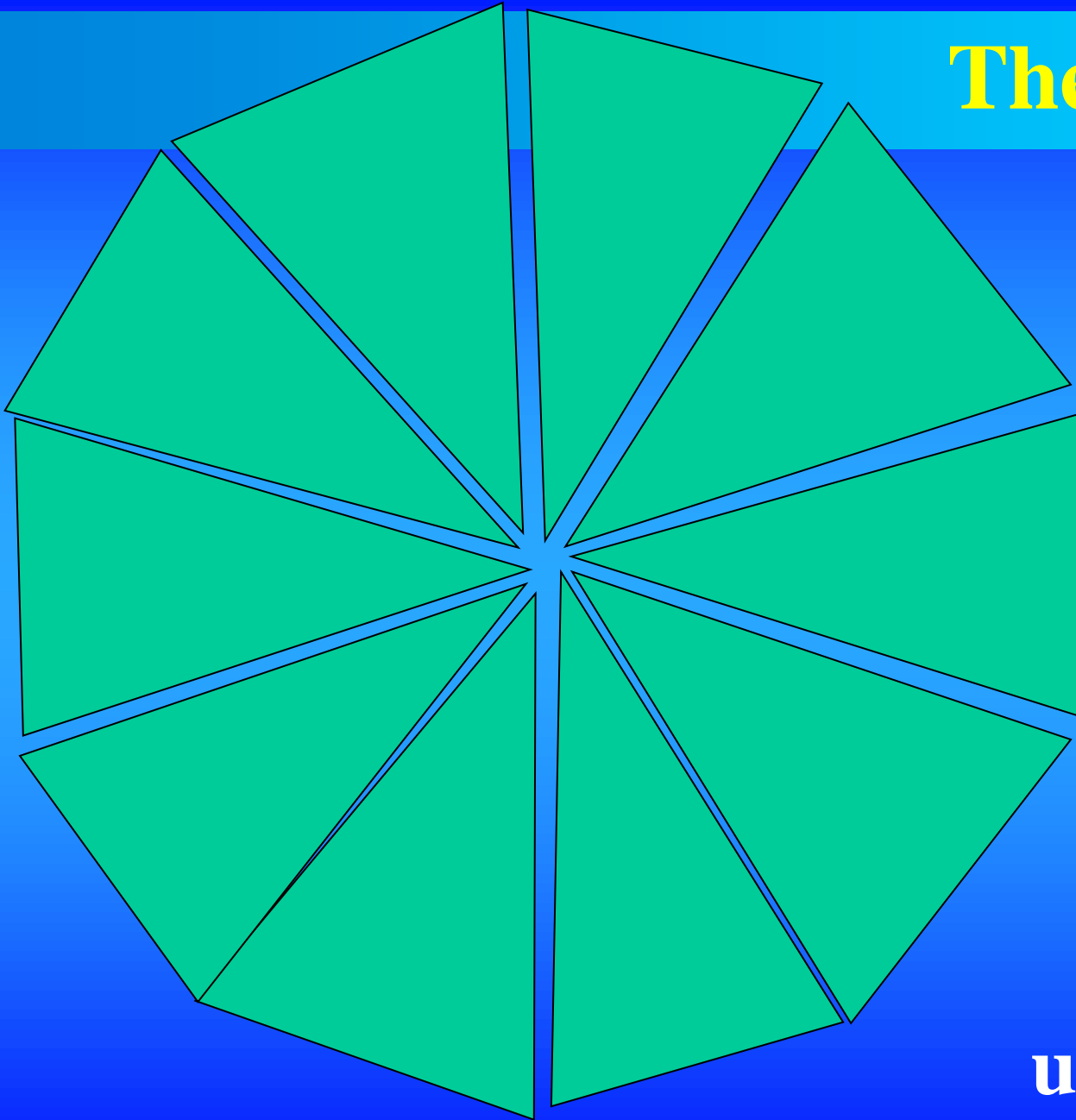
Together continuously

# The wheel

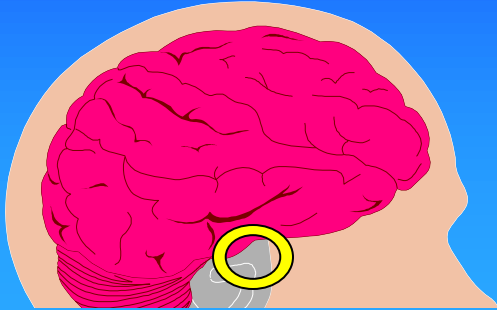
is not  
round

Turns  
slow at  
first

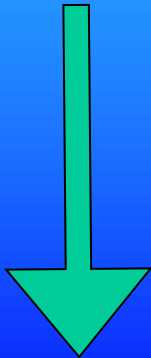
but  
then  
picks  
up speed!



# BREASTFEEDING A PREMATURE



**NUTRITION**



- |        |                                    |
|--------|------------------------------------|
| STEP 1 | SSC                                |
| STEP 2 | ALLOW TIME                         |
| STEP 3 | State organisation:<br>alert awake |
| STEP 4 | SMELL                              |
| STEP 5 | TASTE                              |
| STEP 6 | LATCH                              |
| STEP 7 | SUCKLE                             |

BABY STOHM PREM BREASTFEED:

SEE WEBSITE

<http://www.kangaroomothercare.com/stohm-breastfeeding.aspx>

# THE NEWBORN

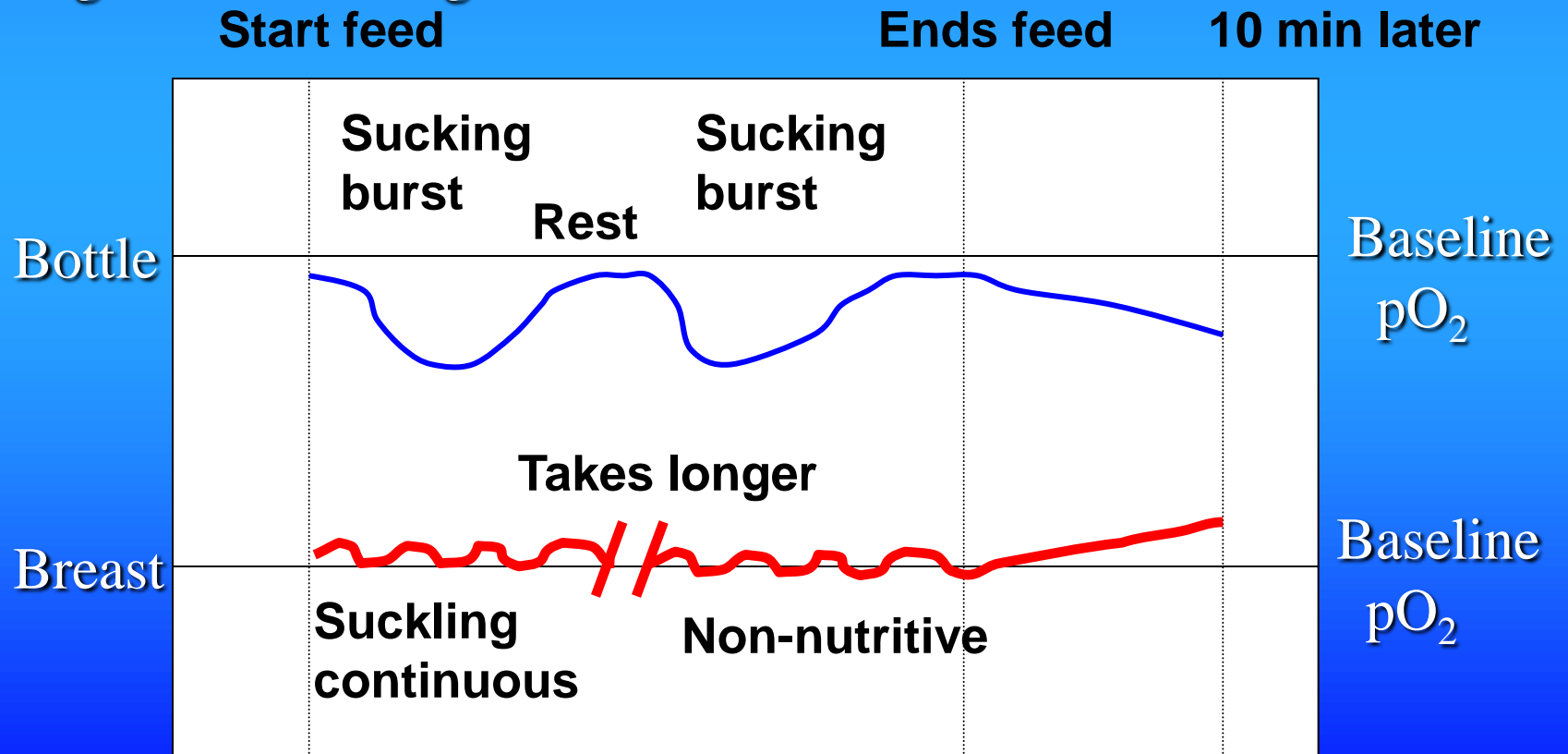
also has a larynx that meets the uvula, designed to separate the respiratory tract from the gastrointestinal tract , enabling the newborn to feed and breathe simultaneously.



Meier 1988

## BOTTLE AND BREASTFEEDING IN PREMATURE

Prematures babies weighing 1300g and 34/40 PCA,  
given alternating bottle and breastfeeds.



# BOTTLEFEEDING IS STRESSFUL and DANGEROUS

(Chen et al 2000)

25 babies in 80 sessions, all <1800g

"There were 2 episodes of apnea and 20 episodes of oxygen desaturation during bottle-feeding and none during breastfeeding.

We conclude that breastfeeding is a more physiological feeding method for the preterm infant and bottle-feeding may be more stressful."

SUCKLING

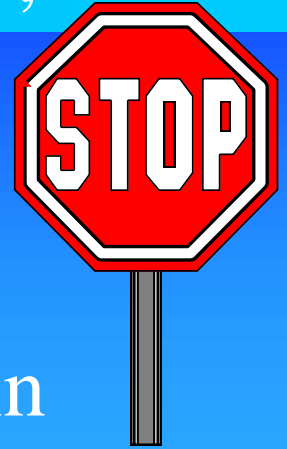
uses the largest muscle in the baby's head, making the smallest movement

SUCKING

requires lots of tiny and weak muscles, making maximum effort,

... also causes hypoxia,  
... and is STRESSFUL!

Bottle feeding requires **SUCKING**, which requires completely different muscles, and does NOT allow co-ordination between swallowing and breathing. Bottle feeding causes **STRESS** in prematures, and relative post-prandial hypoxaemia.



**SUCKLING** - in and of itself,  
apart from nutrition intake -  
has beneficial effects  
on both mother and baby.  
**SENSORY STIMULATION ....**

# Suckling

induces simultaneous endocrine  
effects in the gut  
of both mother and child

there is a physiological  
symbiosis between them.

Breast feeding also has psychic effects;  
CCK is produced,  
which induces sedation and sleep.

# STATE ORGANISATION.

The ability to appropriately control the level of sleep and arousal.

# STATE ORGANISATION.

Simplified scale -

HARD CRYING

CRYING

FUSSING

ACTIVE AWAKE

QUIET AWAKE

ALERT INACTIVE

DROWSY

ACTIVE SLEEP

IRREGULAR SLEEP

QUIET SLEEP

DEEP SLEEP

L to R shunting, IVH risk

Stressful, wastes calories,

... build up to stress

This is feeding zone!

Time to connect - stimulation

... transition zone

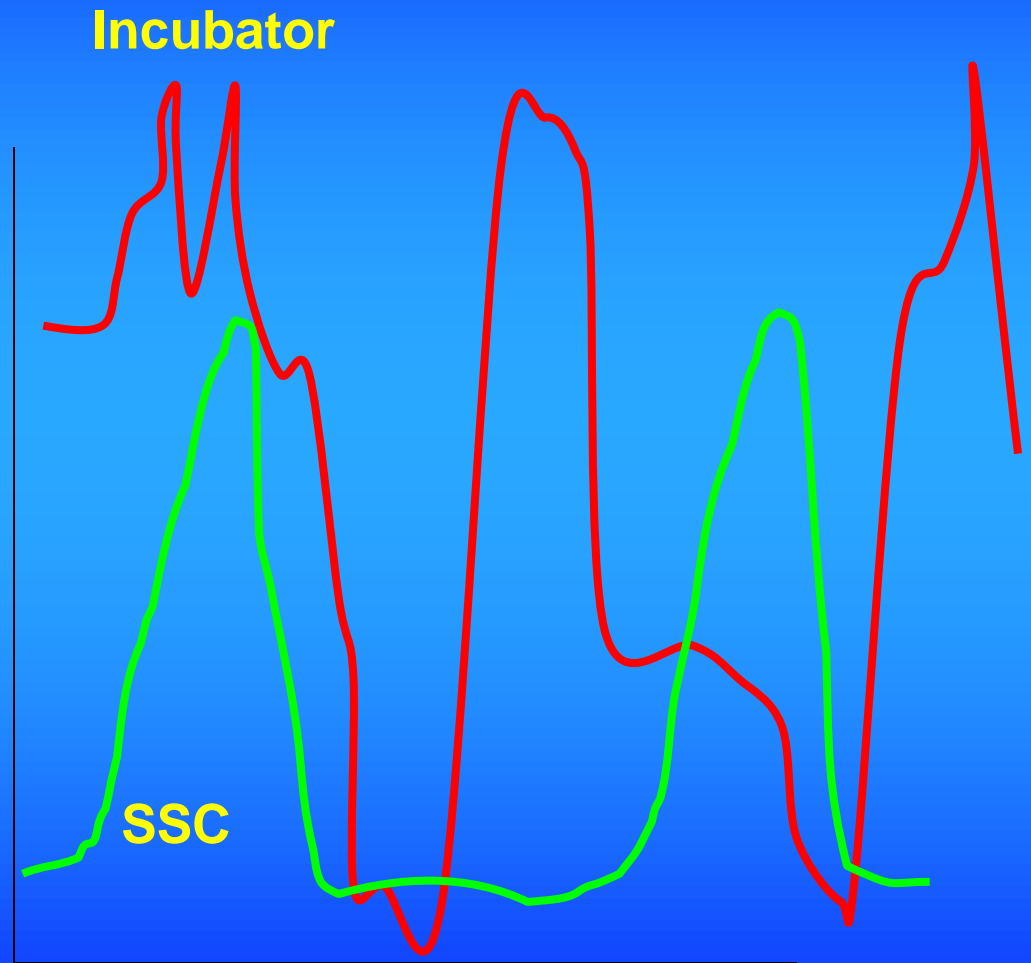
... transition zone

... activity consumes calories

Good sleep - digestion zone

Apnoea zone !!

Simplified scale -  
HARD CRYING  
CRYING  
FUSSING  
ACTIVE AWAKE  
QUIET AWAKE  
ALERT INACTIVE  
DROWSY  
ACTIVE SLEEP  
IRREGULAR SLEEP  
QUIET SLEEP  
DEEP SLEEP





# KMC babies oscillate slowly in safe zones

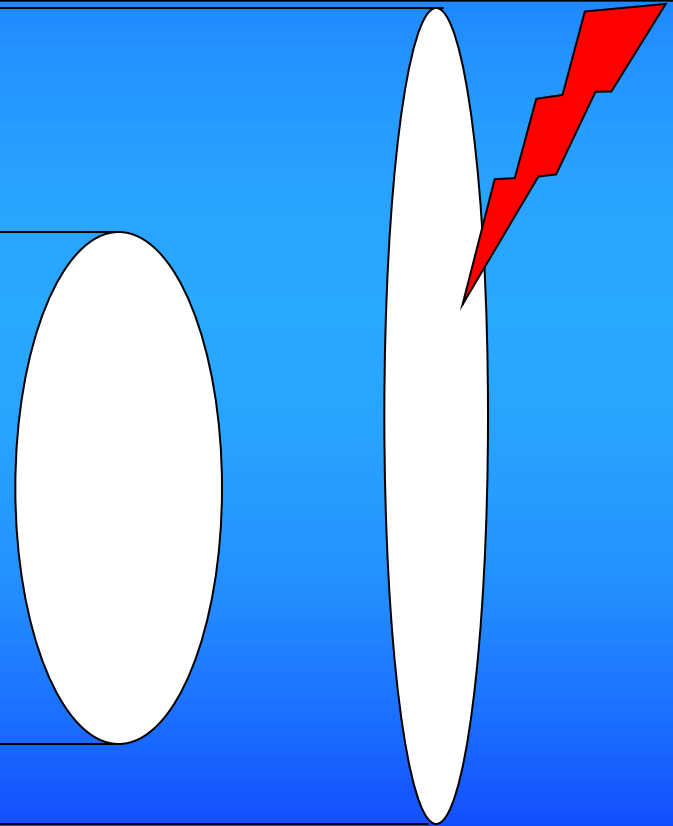
Simplified scale -  
**HARD CRYING**  
**CRYING**  
FUSSING  
ACTIVE AWAKE  
QUIET AWAKE  
ALERT INACTIVE  
DROWSY  
ACTIVE SLEEP  
IRREGULAR SLEEP  
QUIET SLEEP  
**DEEP SLEEP**

risk  
stress

feeding  
stimulation

digestion  
apnoea

Separated babies oscillate  
erratically to danger zones



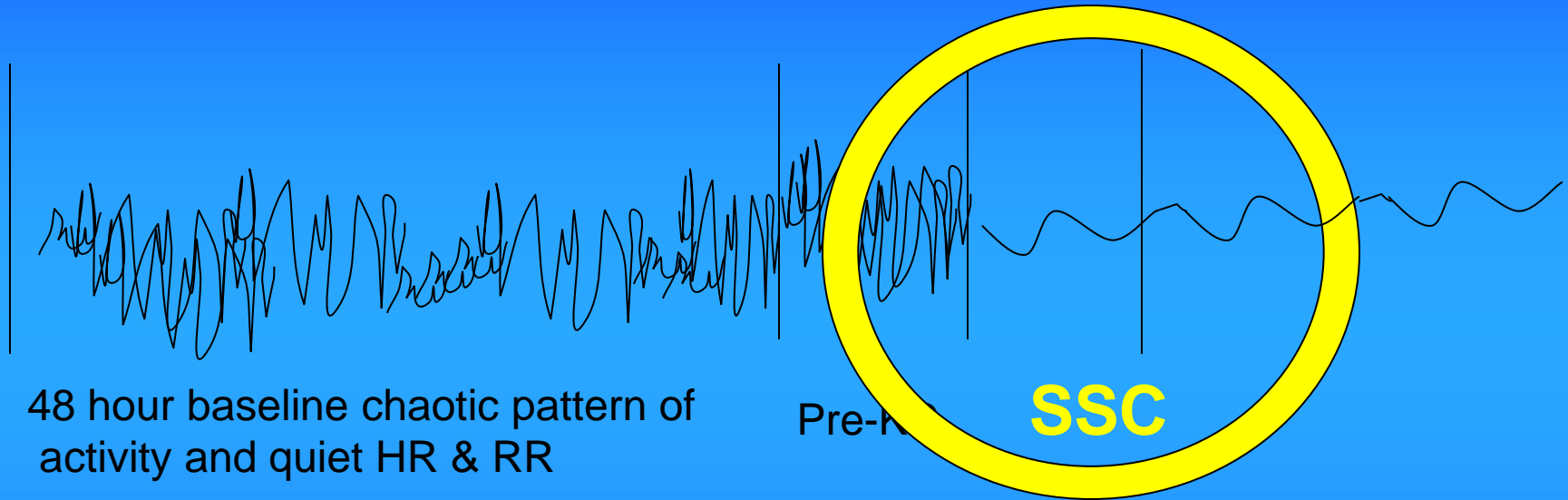
rest-activity cycle

is approx 60 minutes long

(Ludington 2006)

Not so much duration,  
or density of any sleep stage,  
or number of sleep stage episodes, but,  
**cycling between quiet sleep**  
**and active sleep**  
is what is important

# SLEEP CYCLING - Separation vs contact



In SSC:

- Normal cycling
- Non-chaotic pattern

“The newborn may appear helpless, but displays an impressive and purposeful motor activity which, **without maternal assistance**, brings the baby to the nipple.

(Michelson et al 1996)

# Gut hormones.

(Uvnas-Moberg 1989)

20 different hormones  
work in the gut -  
regulated by the vagal nerve.

Each has a specific function.

# Gut hormones.

"Bad guy" - SOMATOSTATIN:  
(produced by fetus, rise 10-fold under stress)

inhibits gastrointestinal secretion,  
inhibits motility ,  
reduces blood flow to gut  
and absorption,  
causes gastric retention,  
vomiting, constipation.

# SOMATOSTATIN:

inhibits the good hormones,  
contributes to  
slow weight gain.

At high levels also  
inhibits release of  
growth hormone.

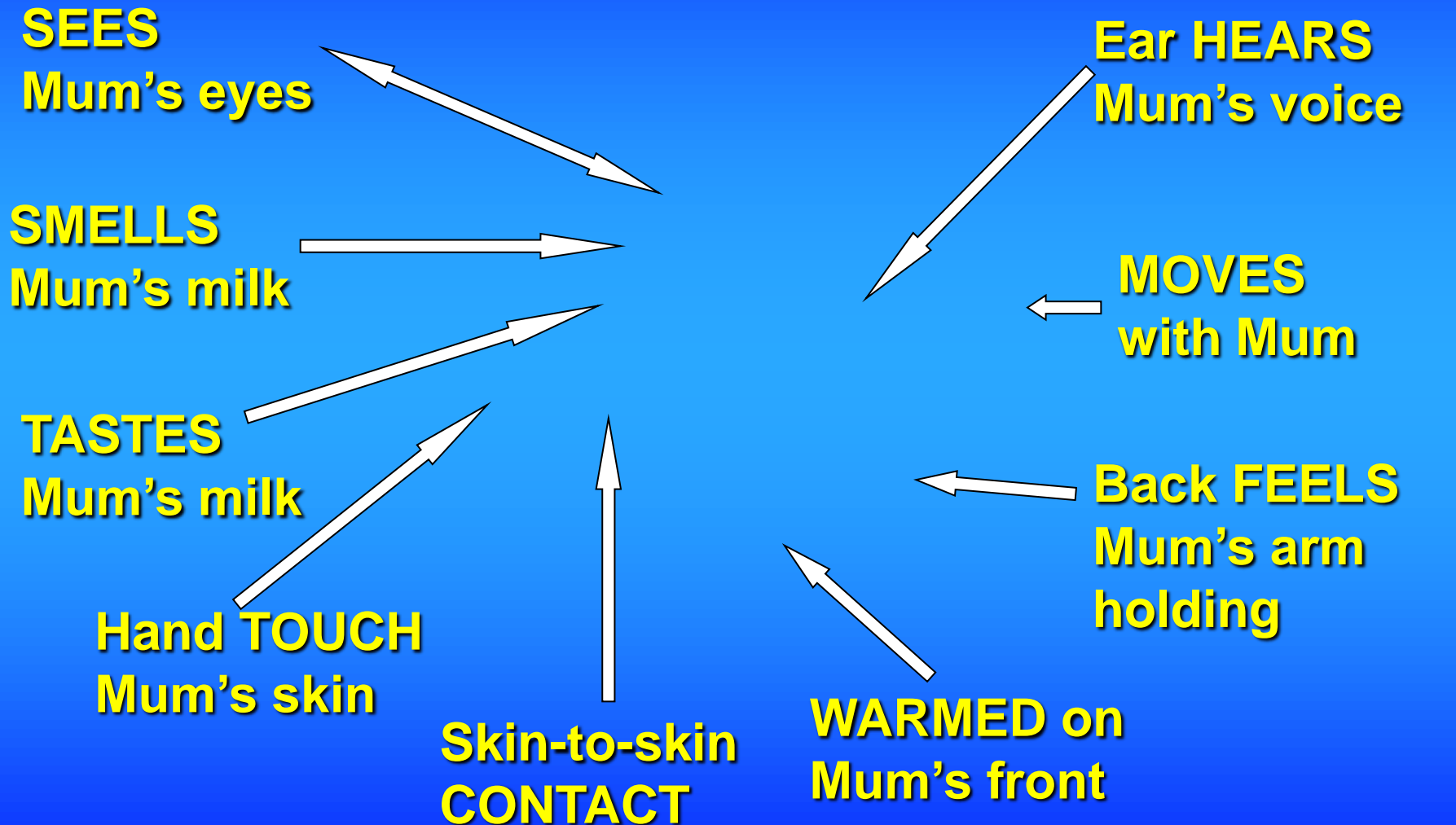


It takes 30 to 60 minutes  
to lower somatostatin  
and other stress hormones

SLEEP  
VITAL !!!

DISSOCIATED INFANT  
WILL NOT SHOW  
FEEDING CUES

# SENSATIONS THAT WIRE BRAIN

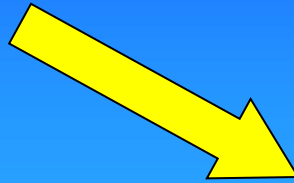


Slide from JILL BERGMAN

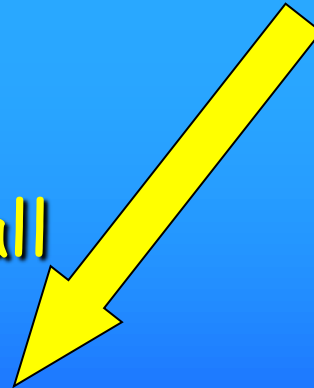
# TRIGLYCERIDE

Left : glycerol,

Right: palmitic acid,  
oleic acid, alpha-linolenic acid



In phosphoglycerides,  
glycerol molecule same:  
two fatty acids esterified



Phospholipids are  
a major component of all  
biological membranes,

Sphingomyelin particularly  
concentrated in BRAIN  
major part of MYELIN.

TRIGLYCERIDE

MYELIN.

FATTY ACIDS ARE  
SPECIES SPECIFIC

Dendritification and myelinisation peaks occur  
at 2 and 6 months  
is maximal at one year ....

At one year: human milk has less protein,  
but MORE TRIGLYCERIDE !!!

Up to 6 months,  
milk is 7.4% fat,

but after 12 months it is 10.7%

CC homozygote for "FADS2", "missing"

	<u>NOT Brf</u>	<u>DID Brf</u>	<u>DID Brf</u>
NZ	98.4	103.2	98.9
UK	97.3	104.0	100.7

# Evidence on the long-term effects of breastfeeding

## SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS AND META-ANALYSES

**Bernardo L. Horta, MD, PhD**

*Universidade Federal de Pelotas, Pelotas, Brazil*

**Rajiv Bahl, MD, PhD**

*Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development,  
World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland*

**José C. Martines, MD, PhD**

*Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development,  
World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland*

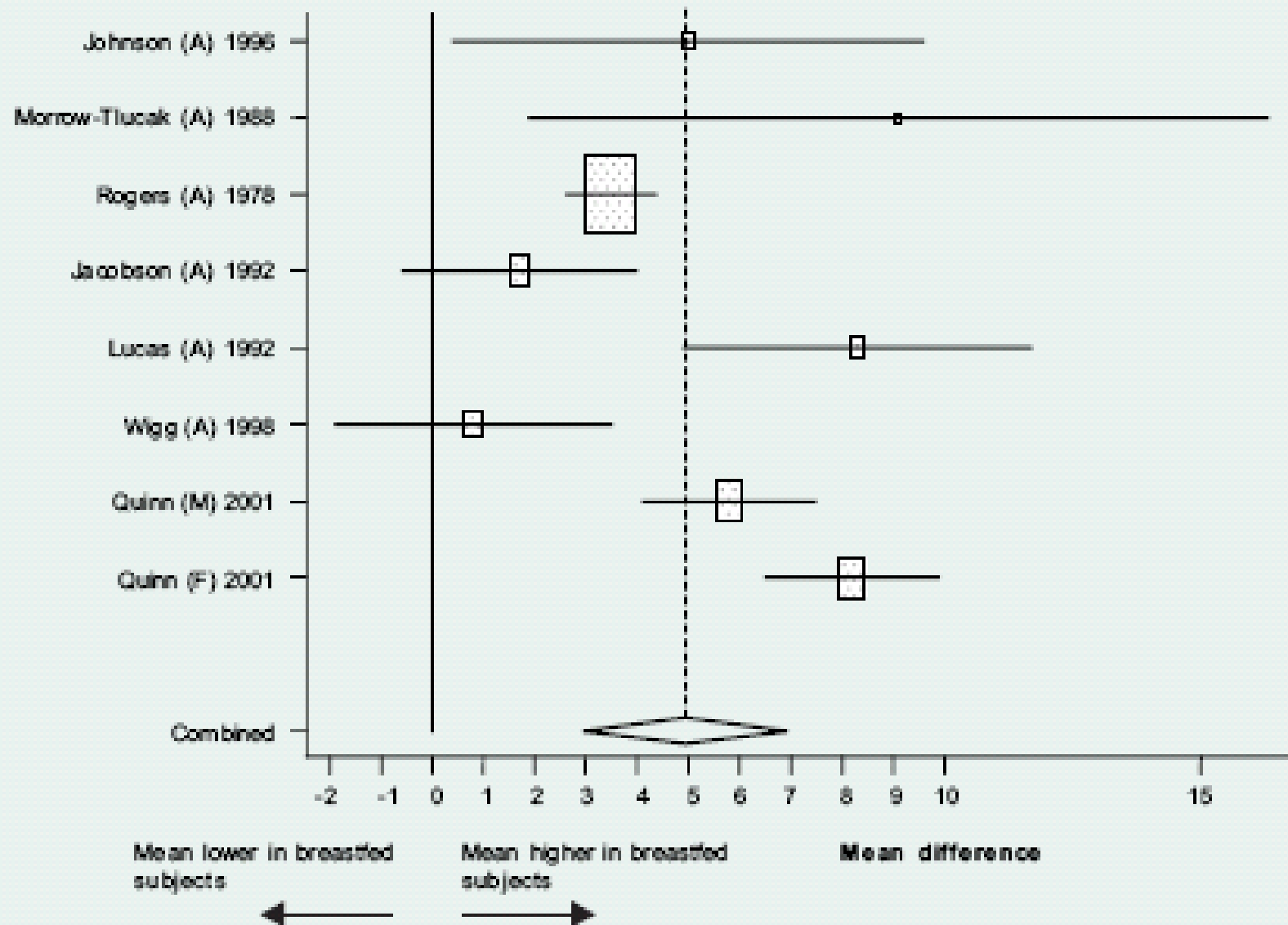
**Cesar G. Victora, MD, PhD**

*Universidade Federal de Pelotas, Pelotas, Brazil*





**Figure 5.1.** Mean difference in cognitive development scores and its 95% confidence interval between breastfed and non-breastfed subjects in different studies. Whether the estimate was for males (M), females (F) and all (A) is indicated in parenthesis



BREASTFEEDING  
AND BREAST MILK

INCREASE IQ

BOTTLE FEEDING  
& FORMULA

DECREASE IQ

Be sure the wet nurse has plenty of milk ...  
because if she lacks it she may give the baby  
milk of a goat or sheep or some other animal,  
because the child ... nourished on animal milk  
does not have perfect wits like one fed on  
woman's milk and always looks stupid and  
vacant and not right in the head.

14<sup>th</sup> century Tuscan text



## POLICY STATEMENT

# Breastfeeding and the Use of Human Milk

## abstract

FREE

Breastfeeding and human milk are the normative standards for infant feeding and nutrition. Given the documented short- and long-term medical and neurodevelopmental advantages of breastfeeding, infant nutrition should be considered a public health issue and not only a lifestyle choice. The American Academy of Pediatrics reaffirms its recommendation of exclusive breastfeeding for about 6 months, followed by continued breastfeeding as complementary foods are introduced, with continuation of breastfeeding for 1 year or longer as mutually desired by mother and infant. Medical contraindications to

BOTTLE FEEDING  
& FORMULA

DECREASE IQ

## **Human Milk Banking Association of North America**

- Setting the Standards for Human Milk Banking*
- Meeting the Milk Banking Needs for North America*

•*A Safe Alternative in the Absence of Infant's Own Mother's*

This website is designed to provide information on milk banking and how to contact a milk bank to donate milk or to order donor human milk. This site is also a resource for health care providers and others who are looking for information on HMBANA's resources and services.

<http://www.hmbana.org/>

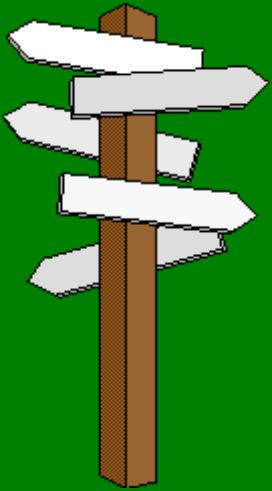
*"Where it is not possible for the biological mother to breastfeed, the first alternative, if available, should be the use of human breast milk from other sources. Human milk banks should be made available in appropriate situations."*

**World Health Organization/United  
Nations Children's Fund**

<http://www.breastmilkproject.org/>



# INFANT FEEDING FREQUENCY: available evidence & neuroscience



## OVERVIEW:

**New section this background**

Neuroscience

Anatomy & physiology

Available evidence

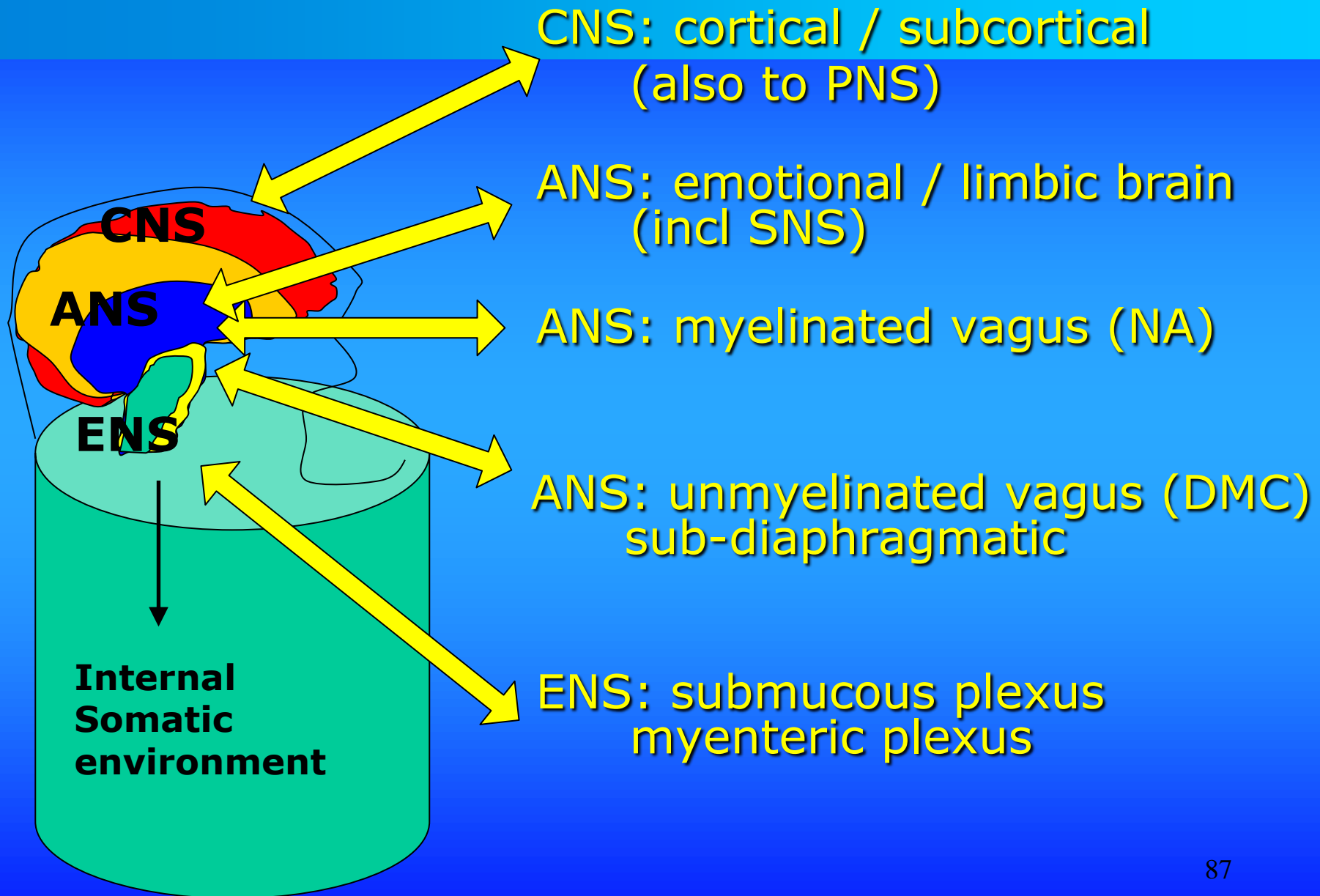
Proposal feeding frequency

Implications

**References in this format**

*konklusion*

*that a good reliable set ov  
bowels  
iz worth more to a man  
than enny quantity of  
brains.“*



# **ENTERIC NERVOUS SYSTEM !!**

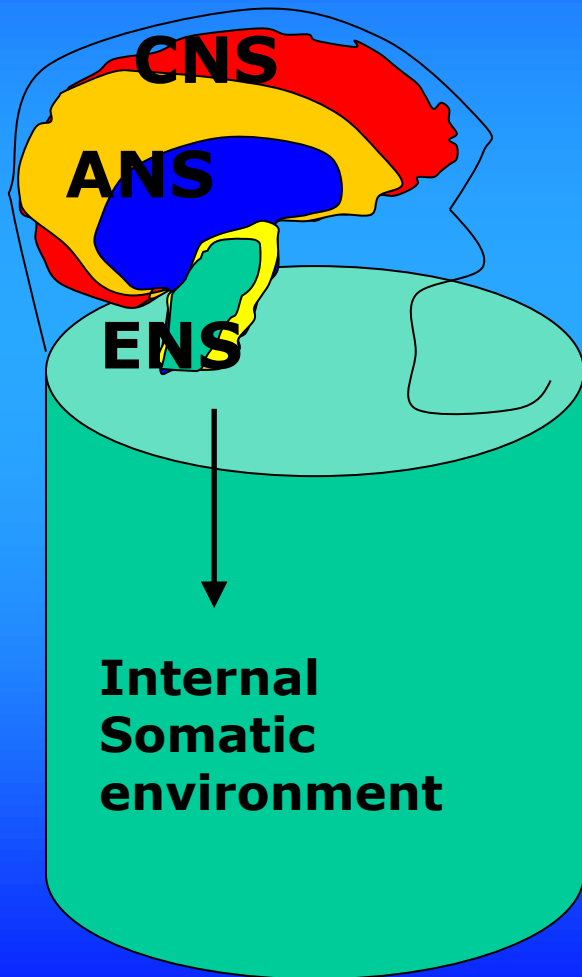
**The digestive system is endowed with its own, local nervous system referred to as the enteric or intrinsic nervous system.**

**The magnitude and complexity of the enteric nervous system is immense - it contains as many neurons as the spinal cord.**

**CEPHALIC PHASE**

**GASTRIC PHASE**

**INTESTINAL PHASE**



**FEEDBACK LOOPS**

Benoist SCHAAAL

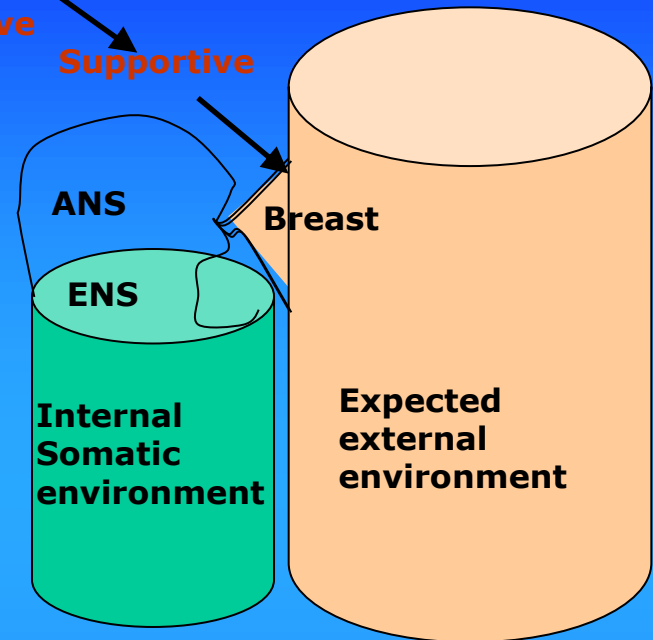
# SMELL

“Olfaction in the fetal and premature infant: functional status and clinical implications”

Sensory environment :

Intrusive  
(pain)

Supportive



Functional at end of first trimester,  
begins very early, experience dependent  
“effective from 29w GA” → significant

**Schaal 2004**

# SMELL

modulates state organisation  
elicits emotional behaviours  
activates pre-feeding actions  
anticipatory digestive physiology  
regulates pace of ingestive behaviour

Perinatal brains show  
orientations towards  
“neonatal olfactory  
expectations”

When provided:

calming, autonomic orientation, active  
approach, metabolic conservation.

When not fulfilled:

withdrawal, autonomic defense & distress  
behaviours, metabolic expenditure



# DOUCET

The secretion of Areolar (Montgomery's) Glands from Lactating Women Elicits Selective, Unconditional Responses in Neonates

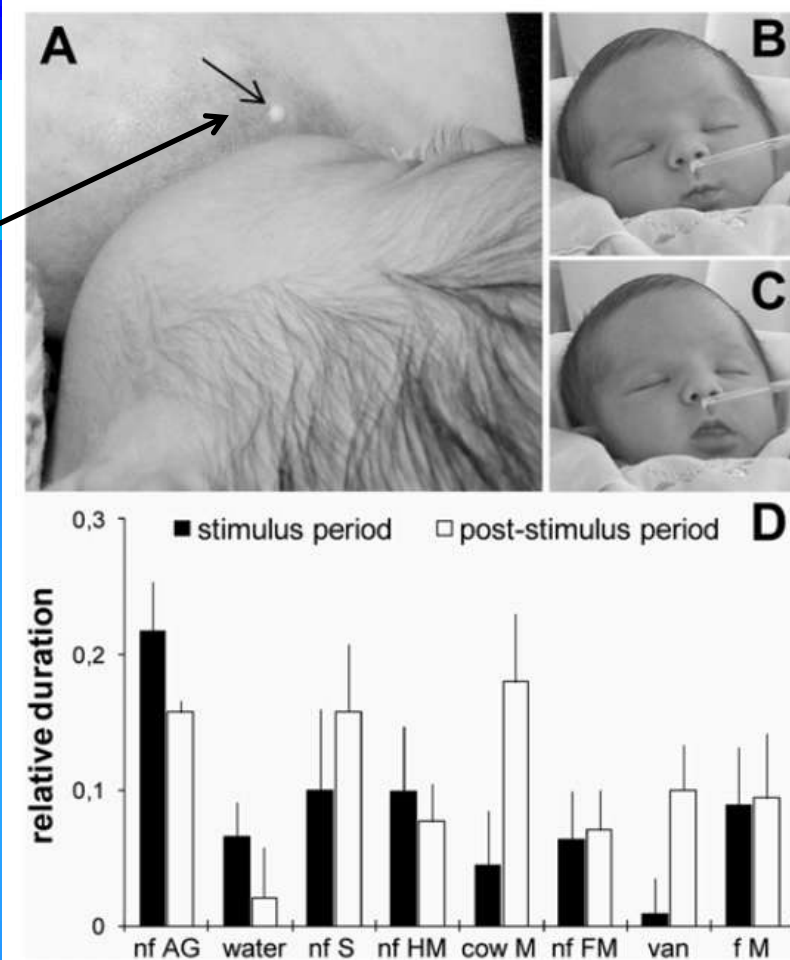
“... breast chemosignals activate oral activity on the nipple that releases a cascade of behavioral, neural, neuroendocrine and endocrine processes in the newborn and the mother.”

**Doucet 2009**

The secretion of Areolar (Montgomery's) Glands

"In early ontogeny the sleeping brain may thus remain sentient of an organism's odor environment."

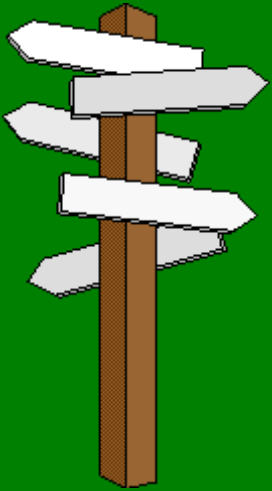
Doucet 2009



**Figure 1. Areolar glands and infant behavior.** A) Areola of a lactating woman (day 3 postpartum) with Montgomery's glands giving off their secretion (arrow). B and C) Newborns' oro-cephalic responses to the secretion of Montgomery's areolar gland (B: lip pursing; C: tongue protrusion). D) Mean ( $\pm$  sem) relative durations of newborns' oro-cephalic responses during (10-sec stimulus period) and after (10-sec post-stimulus period) presentation of various olfactory stimuli (Abbreviations: AG: secretions of areolar glands; S: sebum; HM: human milk; cow M: cow milk; FM: formula milk; van: vanillin; M: milk; f: familiar; nf: non-familiar;  $n = 19$ ).

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0007579.g001

# INFANT FEEDING FREQUENCY: available evidence & neuroscience



## OVERVIEW:

Neuroscience

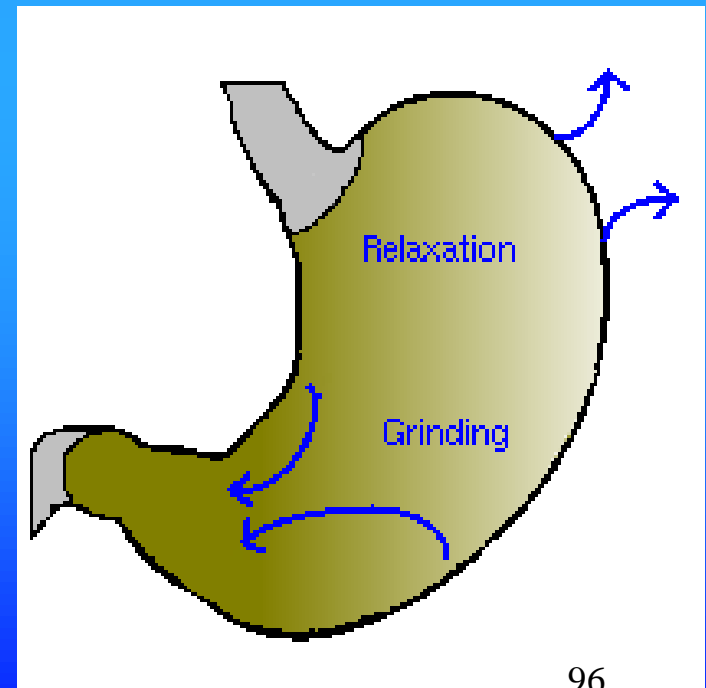
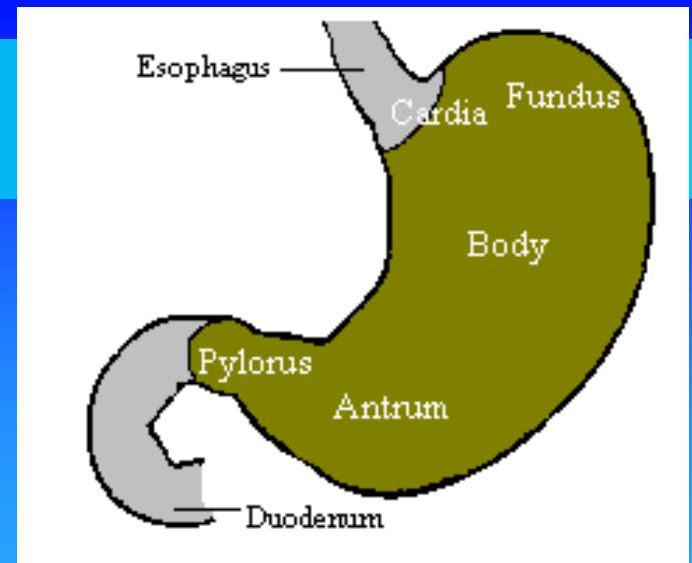
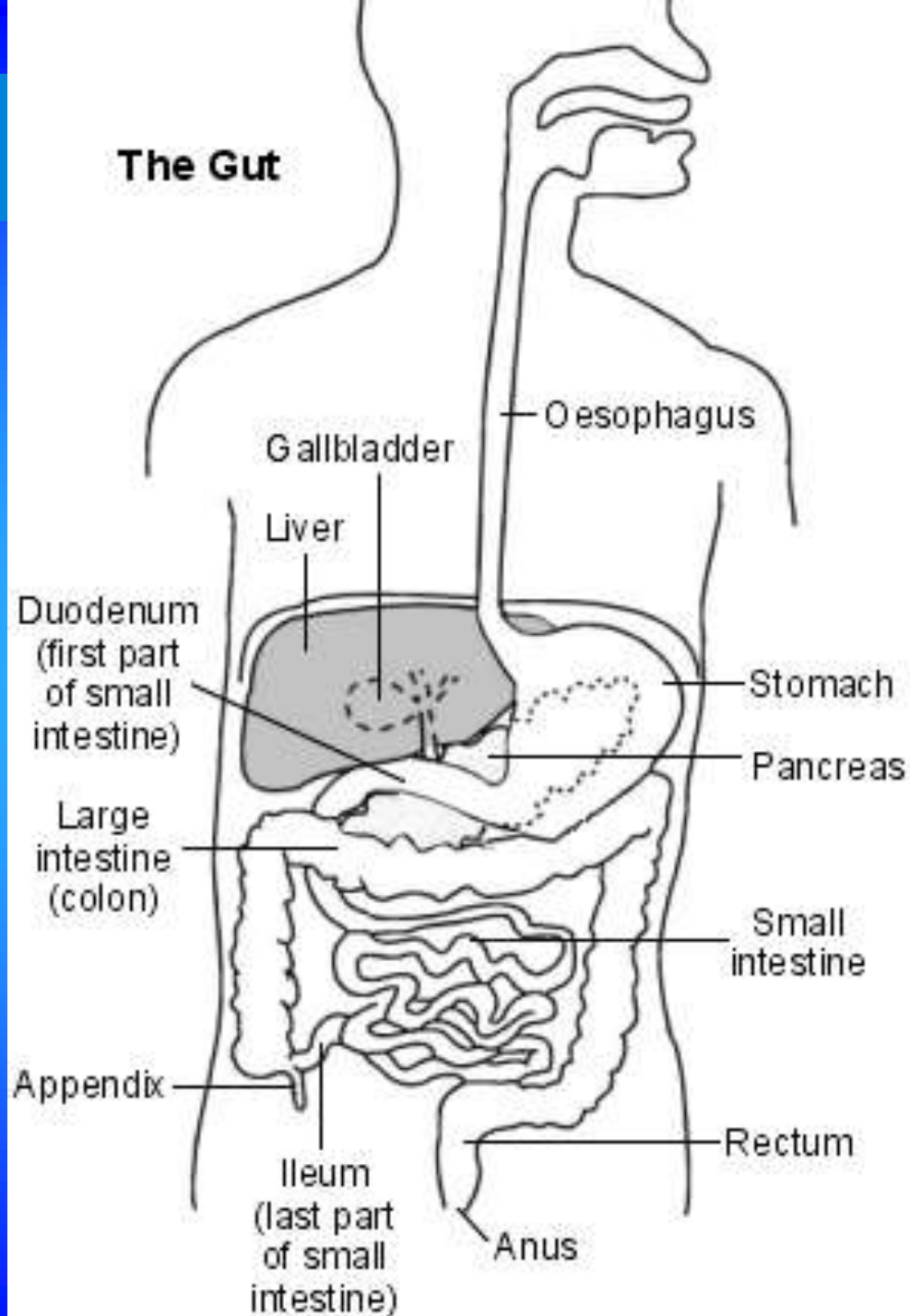
**Anatomy & physiology**

Available evidence

Proposal feeding frequency

Implications

# The Gut



Fetal stomach appears 4 weeks GA.  
By 11 weeks, wall capable of muscular contraction.

“Patterns of antropyloric motility  
in fed healthy preterm infants”

... the neuroregulatory mechanisms responsible for the coordination of antropyloric motility and gastric emptying are well developed by 30 weeks of PMA.

## **Hydrochloric acid**

important for activation of pepsinogen,  
inactivation of microorganisms such as bacteria.

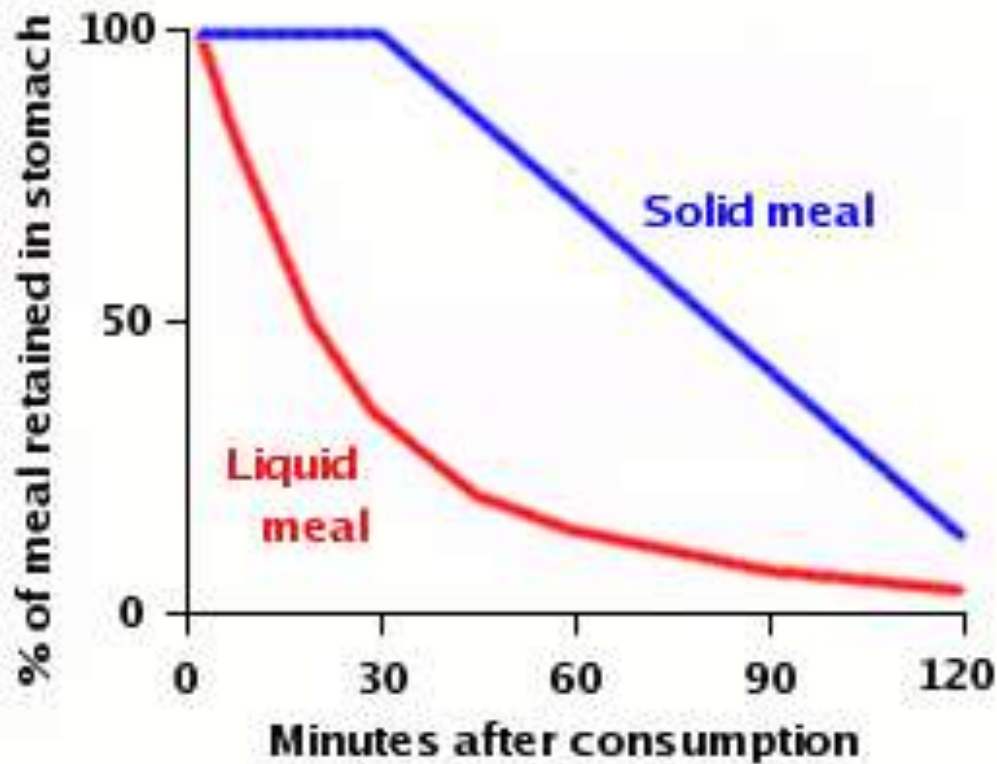
## **Pepsinogen**

activated by acid into active pepsin,  
responsible for the stomach's ability to initiate  
digestion of proteins.

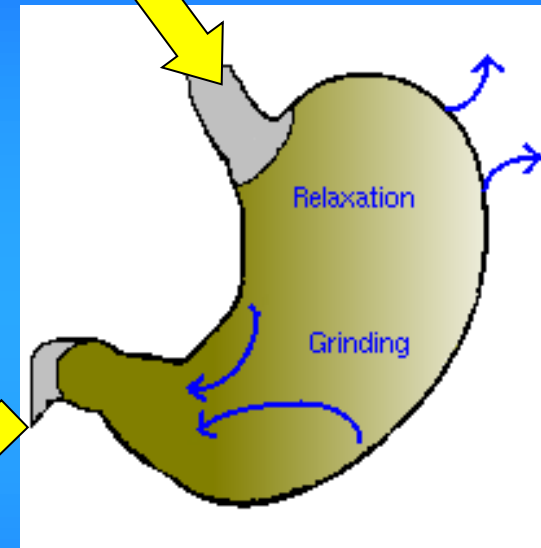
## **Chymosin**

is an enzyme whose role is to curdle or  
coagulate milk in the stomach, a process of  
considerable importance in the very young animal.





milk



## Chymosin

makes the milk into "cheese"  
halfway between liquid and solid  
stomach empties in 60 minutes

# Gut hormones.

20 different hormones  
work in the gut –  
regulated by the vagal nerve.

Each has a specific function.



**CEPHALIC PHASE**  
**GASTRIC PHASE**  
**INTESTINAL PHASE**

**FEEDBACK LOOPS**

# Gut hormones.

"Bad guy" - SOMATOSTATIN:

(produced by fetus, rise 10-fold under stress)

inhibits gastrointestinal secretion,  
inhibits motility ,  
reduces blood flow to gut  
and absorption,  
causes gastric retention,  
vomiting, constipation.

# SOMATOSTATIN:

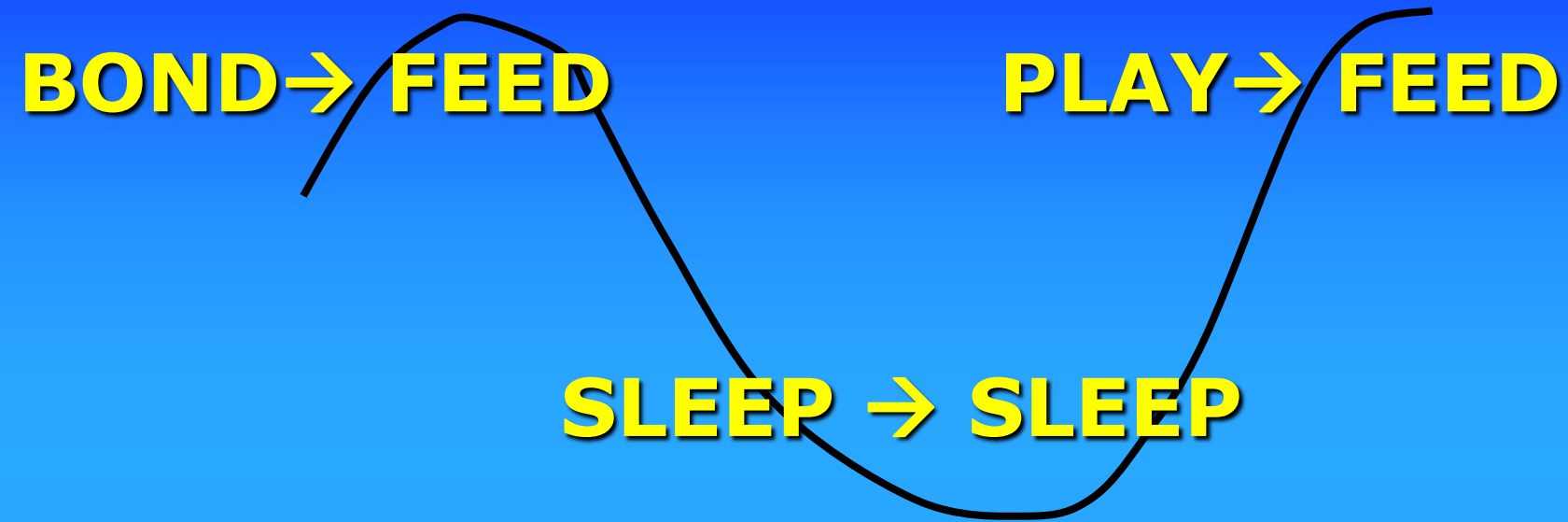
inhibits the good hormones,  
contributes to  
**slow weight gain.**

At high levels also  
inhibits release of  
growth hormone.

It takes 30 to 60 minutes  
of SSC to lower somatostatin  
and other stress hormones

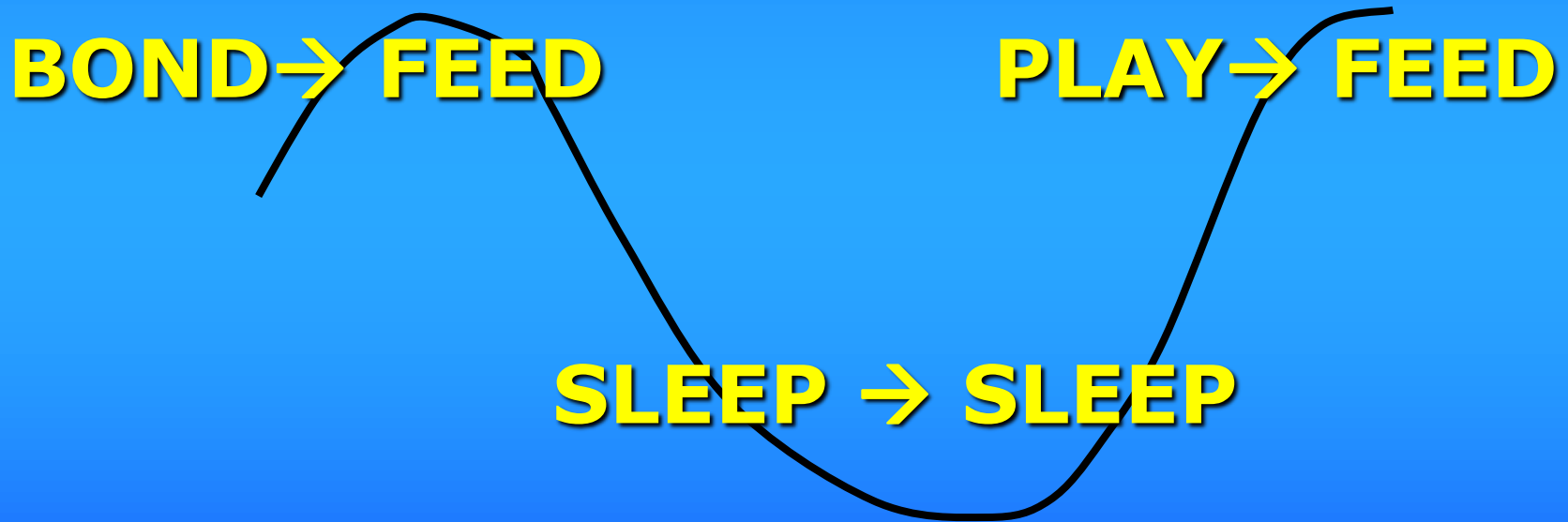
SSC &  
SLEEP  
VITAL !!!

# The “niche” (occupation) of a neonate (Alberts)



# Enteric Nervous System

The “niche” (occupation) of a neonate (Alberts)



# **EVIDENCE FOR FEEDING FREQUENCY ????**

## Findings of the review

### What to feed

#### Choice of milk

*Breastfeeding or mother's own expressed milk.* There is strong and consistent evidence that feeding mother's own milk to pre-term infants of any gestation is associated with a lower incidence of infections and necrotising enterocolitis, and improved neurodevelopmental outcome as compared with formula feeding. Feeding unsupplemented mother's own milk to pre-term infants <1500 g resulted in slower weight and length gains, but the implications of this slower growth are unclear and there is not enough evidence to assess if it increased the risk of malnutrition. Long-term beneficial effects of breastfeeding on blood pressure, serum lipid profile or pro-insulin levels have also been reported for pre-term infants. There are limited data on most outcomes in term LBW infants; the available data suggest that improved infection and neurodevelopmental outcomes associated with feeding mother's milk in pre-term infants are also seen in this group.

**Breastfeeding and mother's milk:  
Strong and consistent evidence**



How to feed

## Feeding methods

*Cup feeding compared with bottle feeding.* In pre-term infants, cup feeding leads to higher rates of full (exclusive or predominant) breastfeeding, compared with bottle feeding at the time of discharge from hospital. Cup feeding was also associated with greater physiological stability, e.g. lower risk of bradycardia or desaturation, than bottle feeding. No data are available for term LBW infants. When cup feeding is correctly done, i.e. with the infant upright and the milk is not poured into the mouth, there is no evidence that there is an increased risk of aspiration.

**Cup feeding versus bottle feeding:  
Cup feeding higher breastfeeding  
greater stability**

## FEED FREQUENCIES AND INTERVALS

### Results

#### Effects on mortality, serious morbidity, neurodevelopment or malnutrition

No RCTs or observational studies were located which examined the impact of feeding frequencies or intervals on mortality, serious

#### Effects on other important outcomes

Only case series and descriptive studies were located which examined outcomes such as *feed tolerance* and *biochemical measures* (Level IV evidence) (270, 282). These studies indicated

### Conclusions and implications

Only case series and descriptive studies were located in this section. These describe the

about the safest or most effective regimens. No implications can be drawn for infants of particular gestational ages or birth weights.

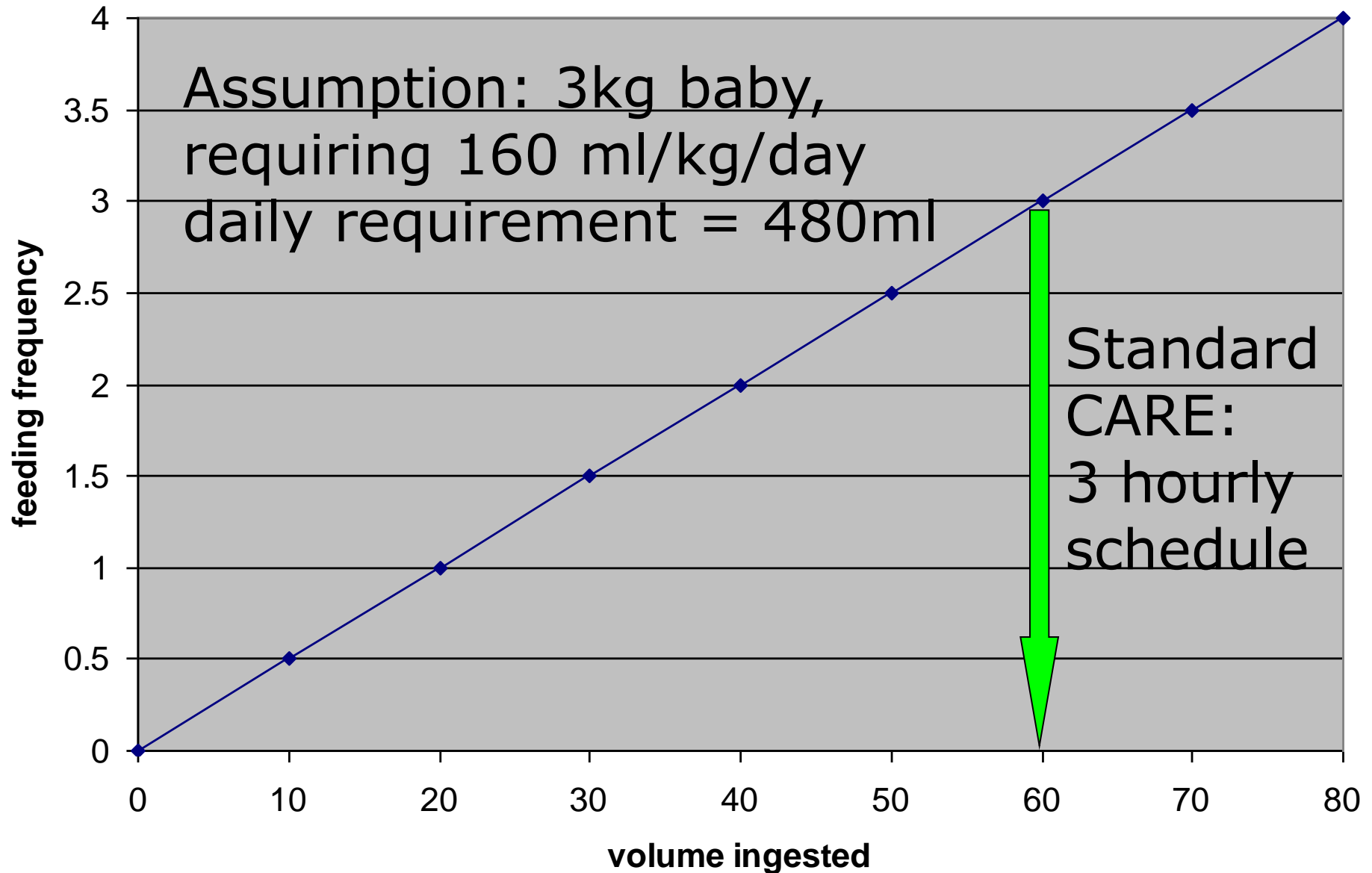
## Recommendations

No policy statements from international or national organizations were located which examined the frequency of feeding in LBW infants. Standard practice in many neonatal units is to commence feeding 4-hourly for infants >2000 g, 3-hourly for infants 1500–2000 g, 2-hourly for infants 1000–1500 g, and hourly in infants <1000 g. Feeding intervals are then extended on an individual basis depending on feed tolerance, gastric aspirates and physiological stability. It was not possible to provide additional recommendations due to insufficient evidence.

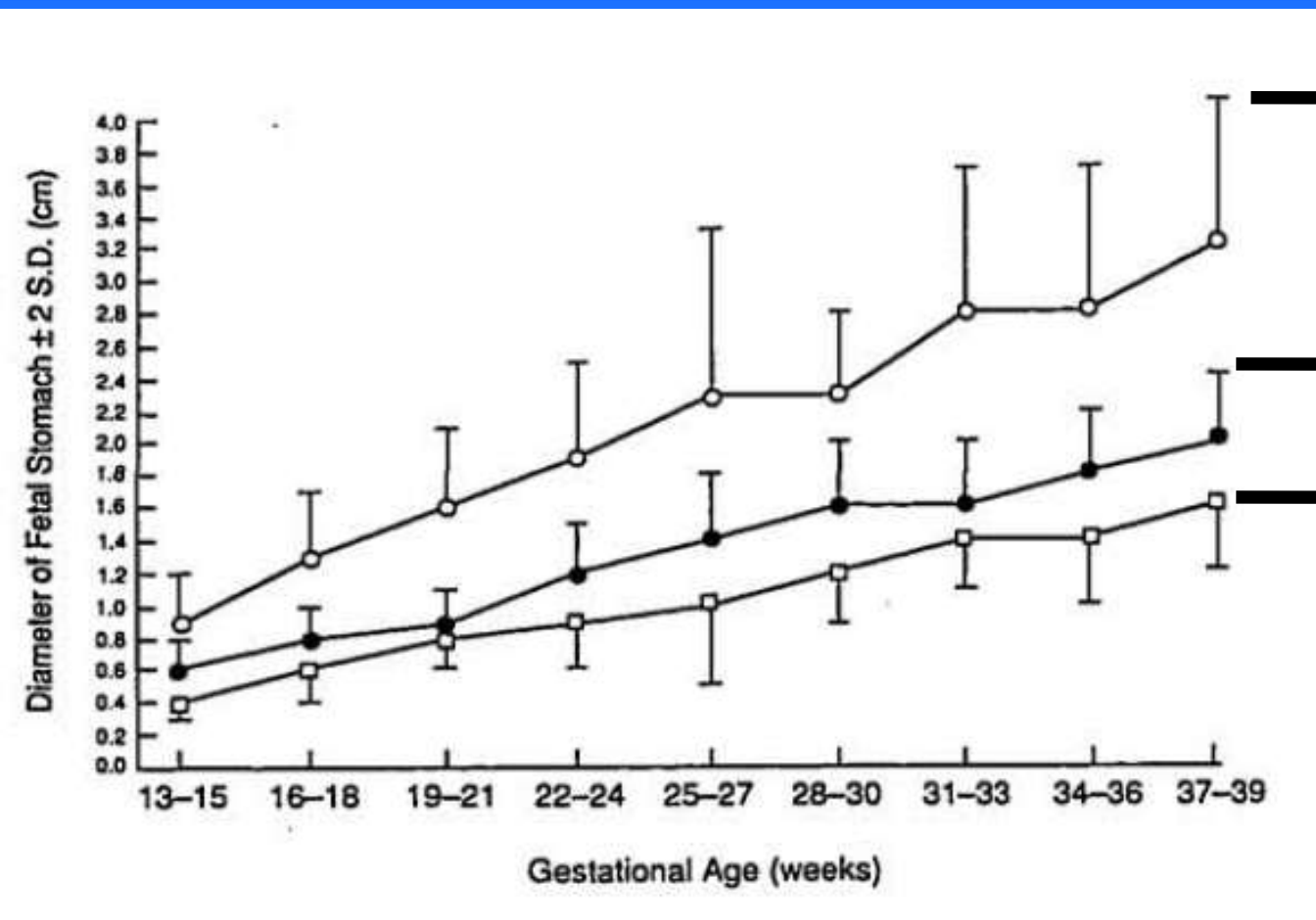
**Only case series ...  
Insufficient evidence**

**No mention of  
stomach capacity**

# **EVIDENCE FOR STOMACH CAPACITY ????**



**KEY QUESTION:**  
**WHAT IS THE**  
**STOMACH**  
**VOLUME**  
**OF THE**  
**NEONATE ???**



→ Length

→ Transverse

→ AP diameter

Using  
+2SD →

# BRADSHAW formula

Formula for calculation of stomach capacity (Charles Bradshaw, UCT)

*Assumptions:* the stomach can be approximated by dividing into three sections, namely a ellipsoidal hemisphere, an ellipsoidal cylinder, and a skewed ellipsoidal cone.

*Variables:* a = anteroposterior radius, t = transverse radius, l = length stomach

*Relations:* the height of the cone and the hemisphere are both the same as 'a'.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Ellipsoid} &= 4/3 * \text{Pi} * r_1 * r_2 * r_3 = 4/3 * \text{Pi} * a * a * t; \\
 &\text{therefore volume of hemisphere} = 2/3 \text{ Pi} * a * a * t \\
 \text{Cylinder} &= \text{Area of base} * \text{height} = (\text{Pi} * a * t) * (l - 2a) \\
 \text{Skewed cone} &= 1/3 * \text{base} * \text{height} = 1/3 * \text{Pi} * a * t * a \\
 \text{Total volume} &= \frac{2}{3} * \text{Pi} * a * a * t + \text{Pi} * a * t * (l - 2a) + \frac{1}{3} * \text{Pi} * a * t * a \\
 &= \text{Pi} * a * t * l - \text{Pi} * a * a * t \\
 &= \text{Pi} * a * t * (l - a)
 \end{aligned}$$

Goldstein and Sase data:

Stomach capacity at term 10 - 15 ml

Assumption: 2,5 kg baby 33w GA,  
requiring 150 ml/kg/day = 375 ml

45 MIN CYCLES ( 32 cycles/day)  
12 ML PER CYCLE = 384 ml



# **Newborn stomach volume.**

Gastric volumes at birth  
Correlated with gastric pH,  
gastrin and somatostatin →

**“fetus drinks 10 ml portions  
of amniotic fluid ...”**

Only recent study located:  
“Autopsy” capacity was determined  
in Indian post-mortem studies

“An Autopsy Study of Relationship between  
Perinatal Stomach Capacity and Birth Weight.”

100 autopsies (63 SB, 37 ENND)

Tied at cardia and pylorus, filled with  
water, emptied & measured, repeated,  
“... obliteration of the gastric curvatures”  
“due care to minimize stretch artifacts”

**Naveed 1992**

# "An Autopsy Study of Relationship between Perinatal Stomach Capacity and Birth Weight."

Infants above 2500g only:

	<u>Ave</u>	<u>Range</u>
Stillborn (n 11)	19.6 ml	(10-35)
Early death (n 9)	17.8 ml	(10-25)
<b>All cases (n 20)</b>	<b>18.8 ml</b>	

# KERNESSUK 1997 (Russian)

Postmortem: in situ measures  
(applied Bradshaw formula)

	<u>Ave</u>
Newborn (n 11)	15 ml
2 months (n 11)	35 ml
2-4 m (n 10)	50 ml
4-6 m (n 8)	100 ml

Known references with data:

Scammon and Doyle 1920

“Observations of the capacity of the stomach in the first ten days of post natal life.”

Zuccarelli's method: stomach filled at autopsy to “a pressure of between 15 and 20 centimeters of water”

“Observations of the capacity of the stomach in the first ten days of post natal life.”

Anatomic capacity was determined  
in post-mortem studies

Main data set → Alliot 1905 (n 25)

Scammon own cases ? (n 13)

30 – 35 ml at birth –  
almost regardless of birth weight

Known references with data:

**Scammon and Doyle 1920**

quoted in Silverman 1961

“Observations of the capacity of the stomach in the first ten days of post natal life.”

14571 feeding records from 323 newborns  
“physiologic capacity” → all breastfed  
test weighing before and after feeding

“... modern infant feeding.” →

“infants were breastfed 5 times per day”

INFERENCE?? If fed 5 x per day  
and daily requirement  $160 \text{ ml} \times 3\text{kg} = 480$   
Required volume:  $480 / 5 = 96 \text{ mls}$

Did not measure stomach capacity:  
Pre-determined a feeding frequency!



“... modern infant feeding.” → 5 per day

Did not measure stomach capacity:  
Pre-determined a feeding frequency!

“ ... the figures ... presented here are distinctly higher than those of earlier investigators ... not surprising considering ... (they) made their observations upon infants which were fed eight or more times per day.”

# Imagine a study !!

Let us measure the stomach capacity  
with a balloon ... at end of NGT  
Test the pressure on adults  
must not be uncomfortable

Once the pressure starts to rise:  
→ there is risk for reflux  
→ to be avoided – expected physiology

THIS SHOULD BE THE  
STOMACH CAPACITY

# Imagined study was done!!

Zangen S et al 2001

Rapid Maturation of Gastric Relaxation  
in Newborn Infants

75 ml per feeding

No reference given ....

Zangen S et al

Rapid maturation of gastric relaxation in newborns

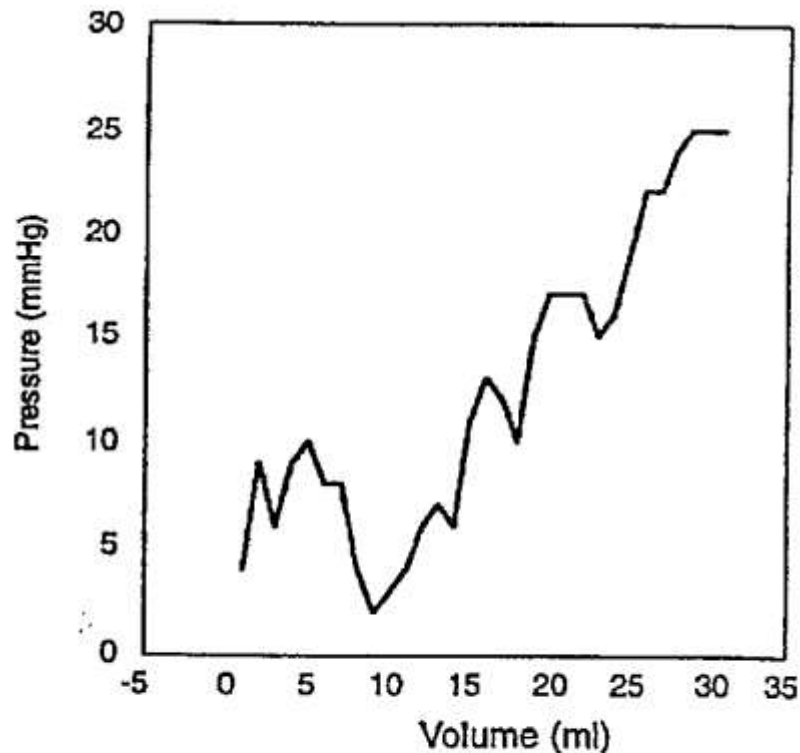


Figure 1. An intragastric pressure-volume plot from a single distention in one newborn. The flat portion of the curve between 0 and 15 mL is an artifact caused by the volume required to open the balloon. Note the linear pressure-volume relationship from 5 mm Hg to the maximal pressure tested, 30 mm Hg. There is no plateau with a 0 slope, as expected in adults.

Pressures (mmHg)

Balloon inflates to

15 ml no increase

functional  
capacity

# TERMINOLOGY PROPOSALS

“Functional capacity”  
equivalent to “expectation volume”,  
for which optimal pepsin / acid is made,  
does not cause distention  
allows adequate time for curdle  
allows protein breakdown  
allows controlled pyloric passage

Zangen S et al

Rapid maturation of gastric relaxation in newborns

Pressures (mmHg)

Balloon inflates to

15 ml no increase

20 ml pressure OK

physiological  
capacity ....

# TERMINOLOGY PROPOSALS

## Physiological capacity

Maximal amount stomach can handle without undue stress.

“Receptive capacity” of STOMACH  
maximal amount stretched organ holds

“Ingestive capacity” of BABY  
amount baby or infant swallowed,  
(note, excess not in stomach)

Scammon and Doyle did draw attention to this also ....

### Physiological capacity

Maximal amount stomach can handle without undue stress.

"Receptive capacity" of STOMACH  
maximal amount stretched organ holds

"Ingestive capacity" of BABY  
amount baby or infant swallowed,  
(note, excess not in stomach)



# EVIDENCE: (NBn 111009)

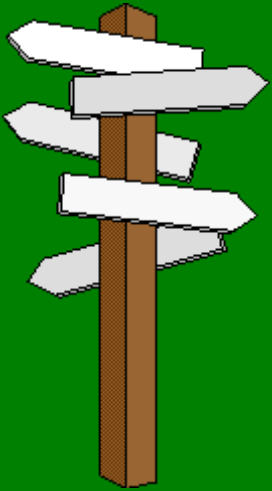
<u>Author</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Note:</u>
Sase	10-15 ml	Live, term fetus
Goldstein	10-15 ml	Live, term fetus
Widstrom	10 mls	Live, newborn
Zangen	20 mls	Live, (pressure)
Naveed	20 mls	Autopsy (SB)
	20 mls	Autopsy (ENND)
Kernessuk	15 mls	Autopsy (in situ)
Scammon (Alliot)	30-35 ml	Autopsy (water pressure)

# PROPOSAL:

The CAPACITY of a  
week old baby's  
stomach is

approx 20 ml.

# INFANT FEEDING FREQUENCY: available evidence & neuroscience



## OVERVIEW:

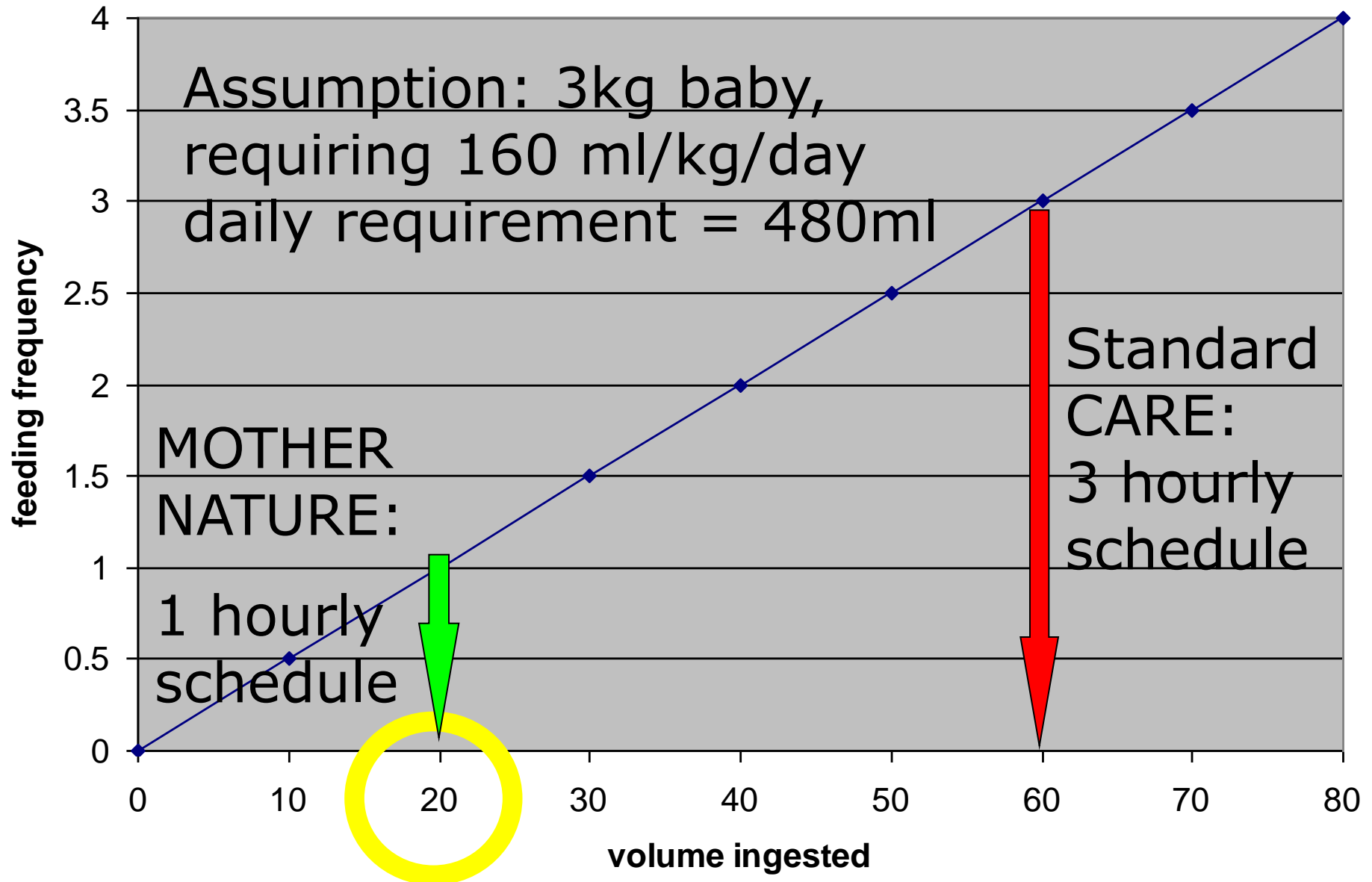
Neuroscience

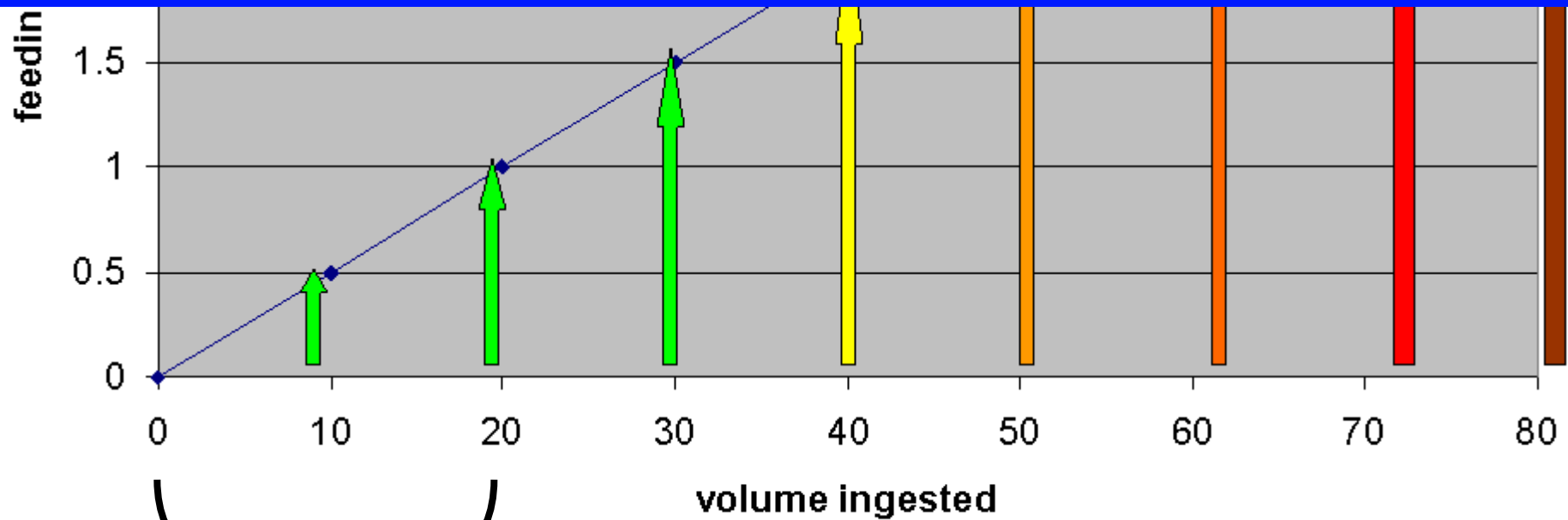
Anatomy & physiology

Available evidence

**Proposal feeding frequency**

Implications





**FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY**

**PHYSIOLOGICAL CAPACITY**

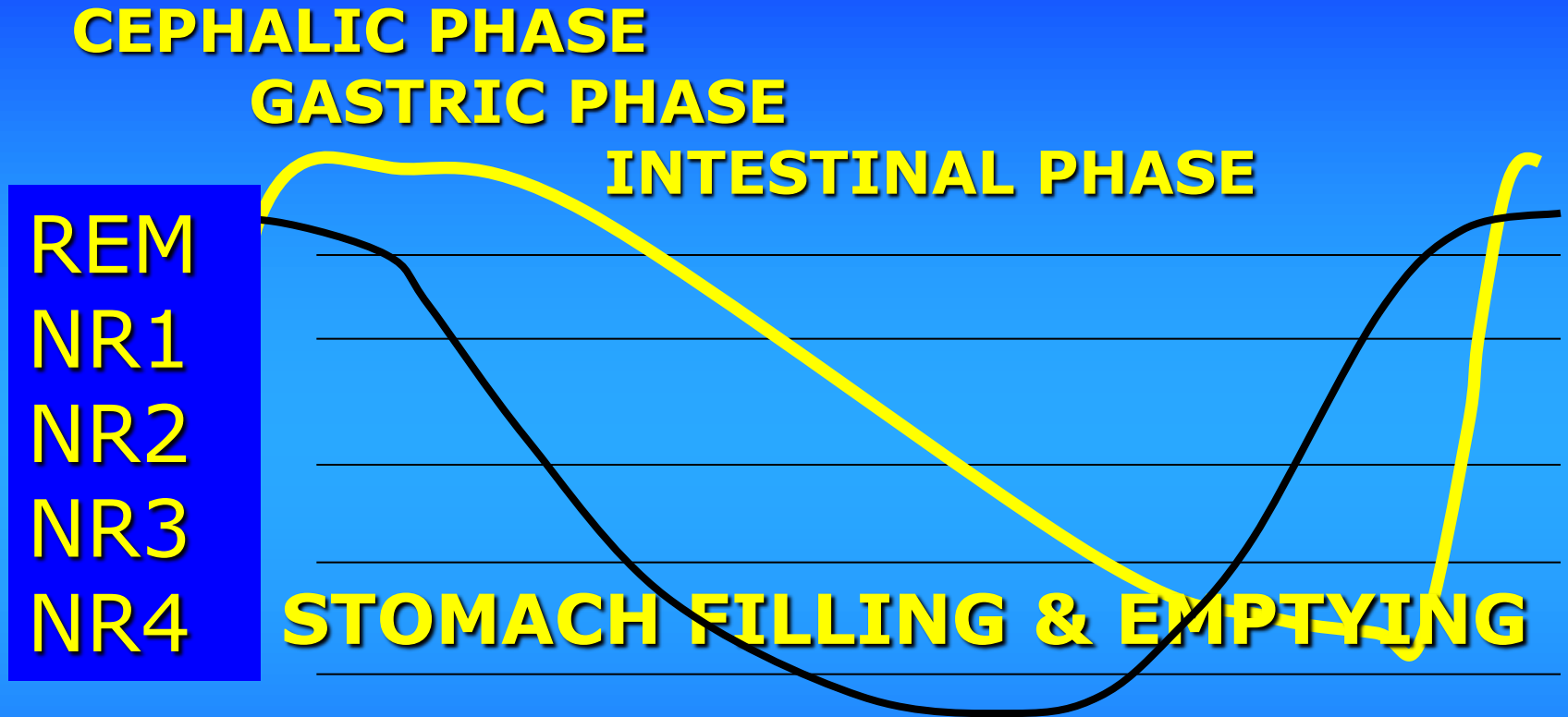
**RECEPTIVE CAPACITY of stomach**

**INGESTIVE CAPACITY of BABY**

# PROPOSAL:

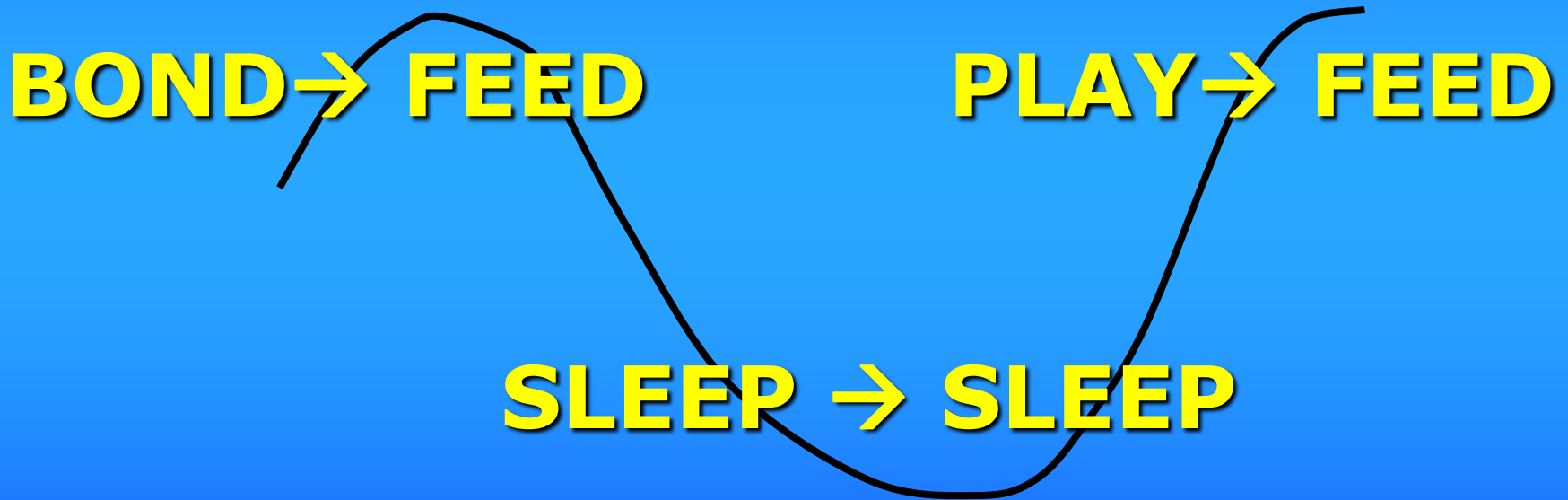
The FEEDING  
FREQUENCY of the  
NEONATE is  
**approx 60 min.**

# BRAIN CYCLING



# Normal physiology of the Enteric Nervous System

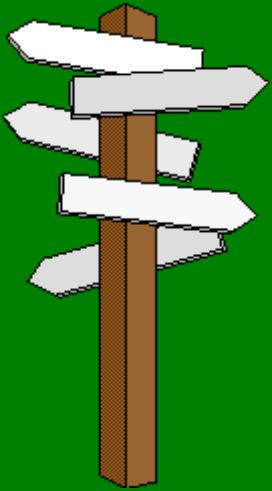
The “niche” (occupation) of a neonate (Alberts)



“Small and frequent feeds,  
according to the sleep cycle”



# INFANT FEEDING FREQUENCY: available evidence & neuroscience



## OVERVIEW:

Neuroscience

Anatomy & physiology

Available evidence

Proposal feeding frequency

**Implications**

Zangen S et al

Rapid maturation of gastric relaxation in newborns

A balloon in stomach  
can fill to 76 mls

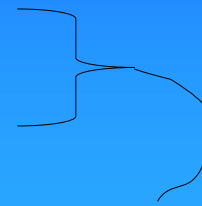
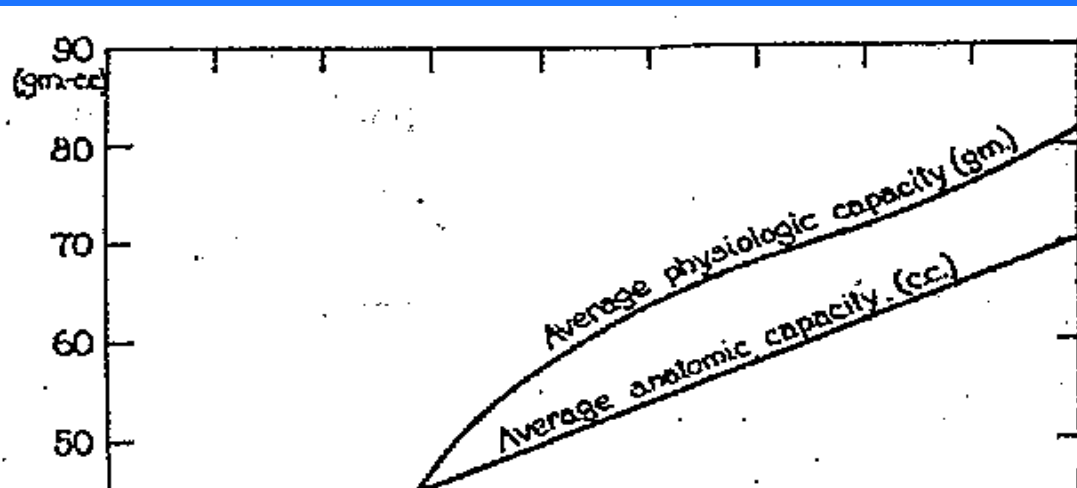
What does the  
stomach –  
without a balloon –  
do to 76 mls?

PRESUME: each feed  
approximately 75 mls

**REFLUX !!!**

**Zangen 2001**

# WHERE IS THE MILK?

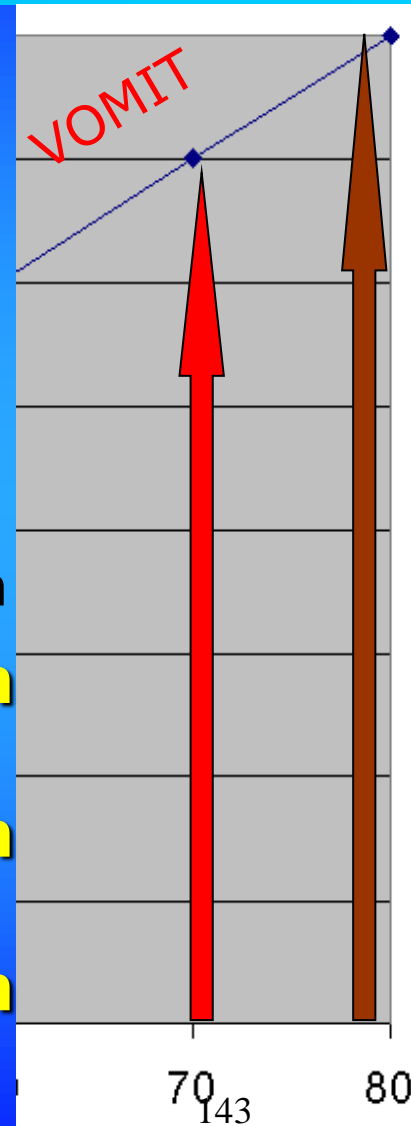


**This volume  
is not in  
the stomach**

**Stomach**

**Stomach**

**Stomach**



# WHERE IS THE MILK?

How To Do Just About  
Everything

How to Burp a Baby

Burping a baby  
can reduce  
spitting up and  
relieve bloating  
caused by  
swallowed air.  
Here are some  
tried-and-true  
methods.

**Mother's shoulder**

**Oesophagus**

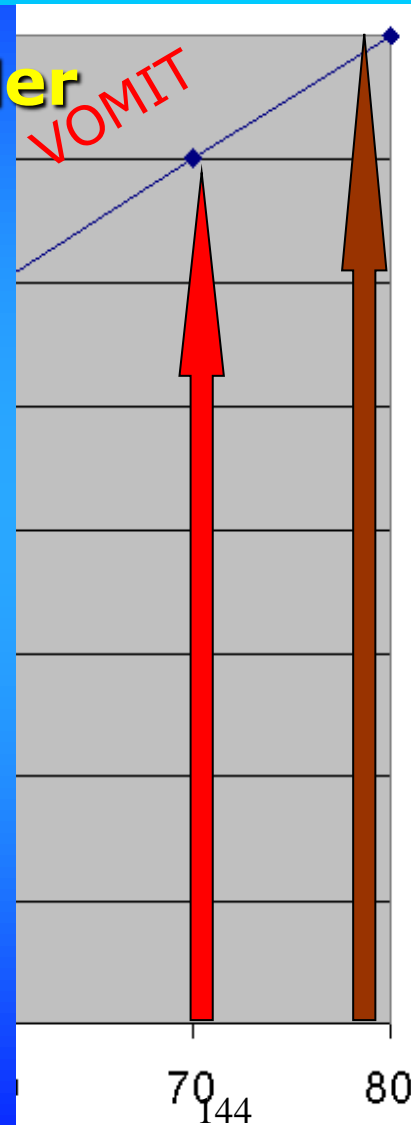
**Duodenum**

**Duodenum**

**Stomach**

**Stomach**

**Stomach**



# WHERE IS THE MILK?

## **What happens when my baby spits up?**

Babies spit up when they've eaten too much or when they're burped. It can also happen when your baby is drooling.

### Spitting up is not vomiting.

Babies usually don't notice when they spit up, while vomiting is forceful and painful. Spitting up is a common occurrence for most babies.

How To Do Just About Everything  
How to Burp a Baby

Burping a baby can reduce spitting up and relieve bloating caused by swallowed air. Here are some tried-and-true methods.

Copyright © 1996-2007 American Academy of Family Physicians

<http://familydoctor.org/online/famdocen/home/children/parents/infants/218.html>

# WHERE IS THE MILK?

## **What happens when my baby spits up?**

Babies spit up when they've eaten too much or when they're burped. It can also happen when your baby is drooling.

Spitting up is not vomiting.

## Spitting up is REFLUX.

Nils Bergman, 2011

Blood sugar may fall ...  
**after 90 minutes ...**

“There is a  
reason behind  
everything  
in nature” Aristotle

**Would nature allow this?**

# HYPOGLYCAEMIA

A babies stomach  
empties in

**60 minutes.**

Blood sugar

may fall ...

after 90 minutes ...

Option?

**HOURLY FEEDING.**



Stettler et al

## Weight Gain in the First Week of Life and Overweight in Adulthood: A Cohort Study of European American Subjects Fed Infant Formula

1898 *Circulation* April 19, 2005

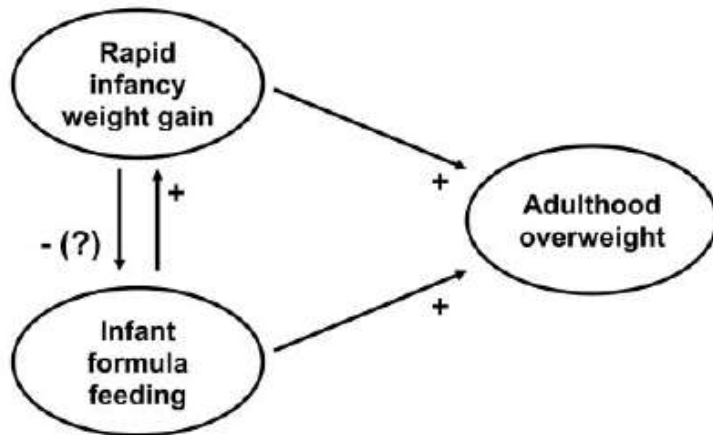


Figure 1. Conceptual model for hypothesized associations of infancy weight gain and feeding mode with adulthood overweight.

Large volume feeds  
stretched stomach=

doubled absorptive  
capacity as adult

Stettler et al

Weight Gain in the First Week of Life and Overweight in Adulthood:  
A Cohort Study of European American Subjects Fed Infant Formula

This finding is important, not so much to predict which infants are at risk for becoming overweight adults, but more to understand the importance of the human physiology of programming during short early-life periods on the development of chronic disease over the life course.

# **Gastric overfilling syndrome?**

## **Excessive volumes**

reflux, aspiration, colic

## **Excessive time interval**

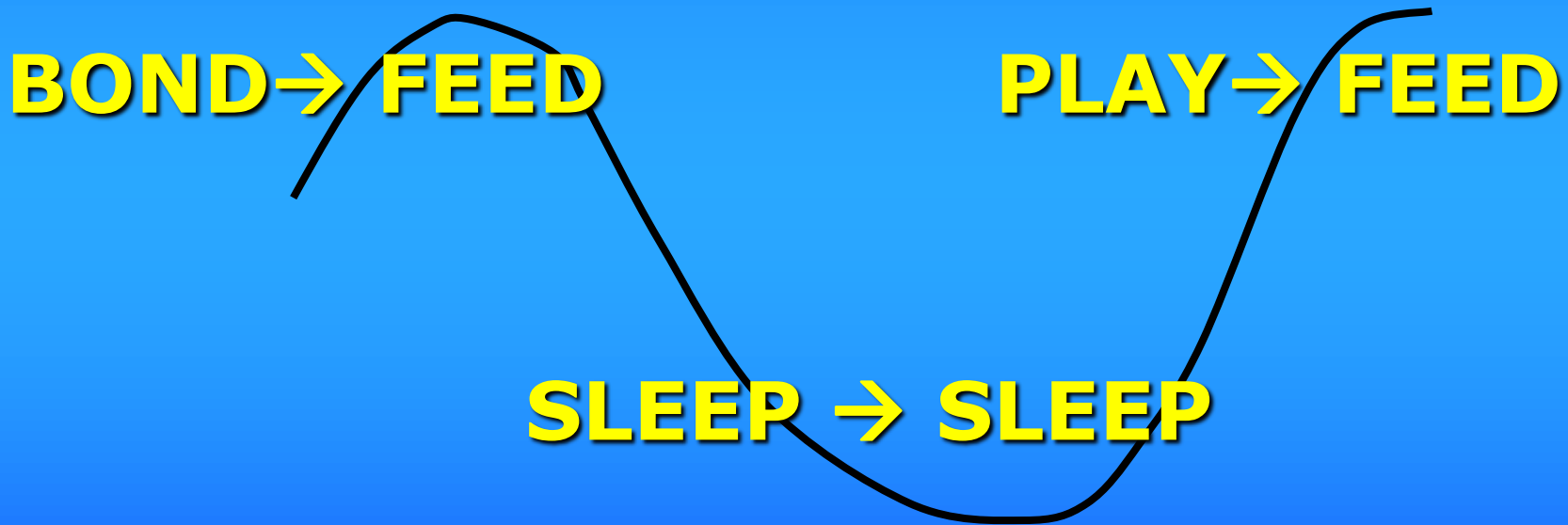
hypoglycaemia

## **Adaptations**

diabetic diathesis, obesity

# Developmental Care of the Enteric Nervous System

The “niche” (occupation) of a neonate (Alberts)



**“Small and frequent feeds, according to the sleep cycle”**

# **WHAT IS THE STOMACH VOLUME OF THE PREMATURE ??**

Assume low resilience

Assume proportionality →

The CAPACITY of a  
low birthweight prem  
from 20ml / 3000g

$$= 0.007 \times BWt (g)$$

$$1\text{kg} \times 0.007 = 7\text{mls}$$

$$2\text{kg} \times 0.007 = 14\text{mls}$$

evidence) (270, 282). These studies indicated that feeding regimens such as 4-hourly feeds for infants >2000 g, 3-hourly for infants 1500–2000 g, 2-hourly for infants 1000–1500 g, and hourly in infants <1000 g were well tolerated, promoted biochemical stability, and produced minimal gastric aspirates.

**Standardised from  
20ml capacity  
for 3kg baby  
( x 0.007)**



**Baby weight; freq; req'd size      → actual**

**2kg baby: 4hrly**

**~ 320 ml/6      = 53ml      →      14ml**

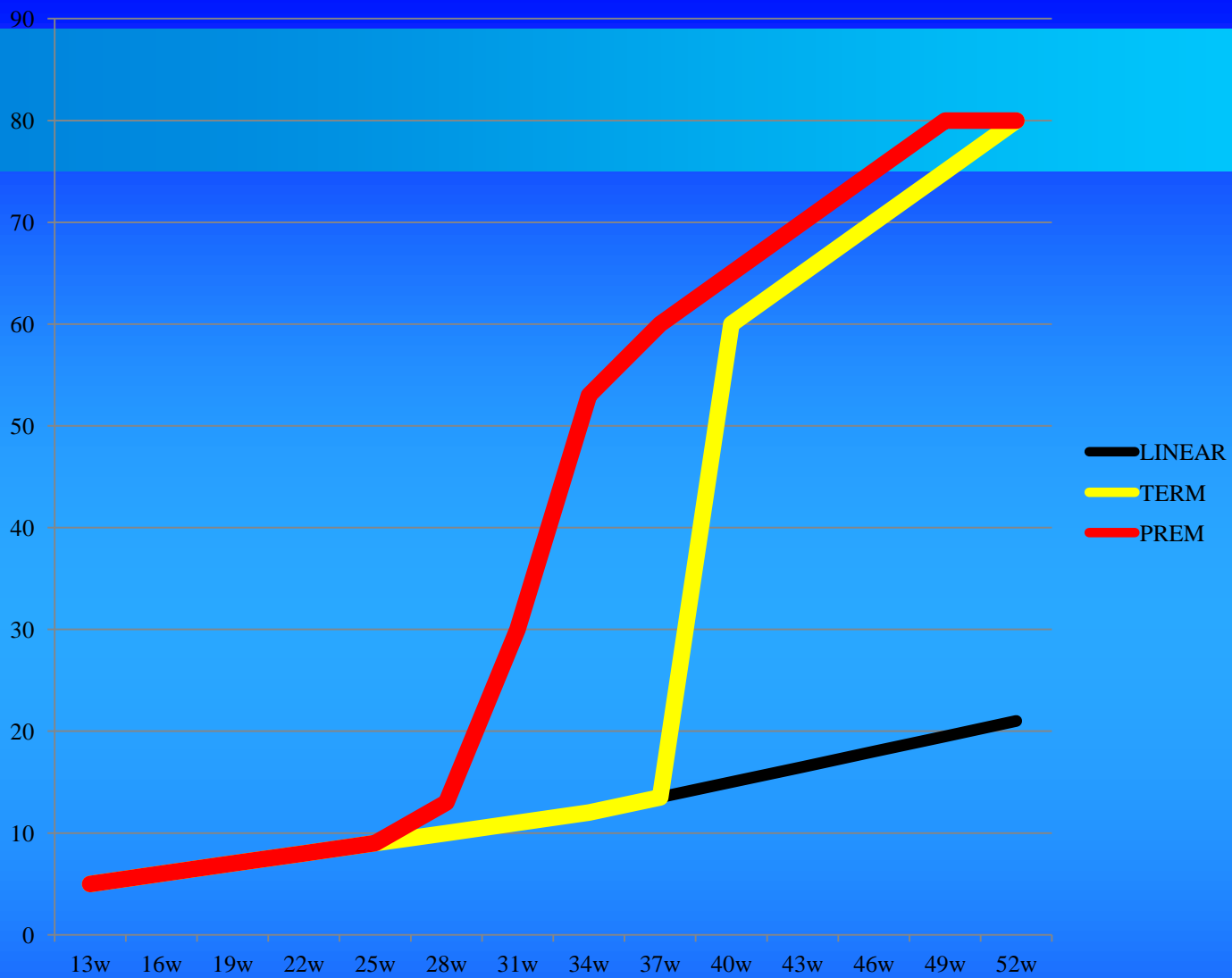
**1,5 baby: 3hrly**

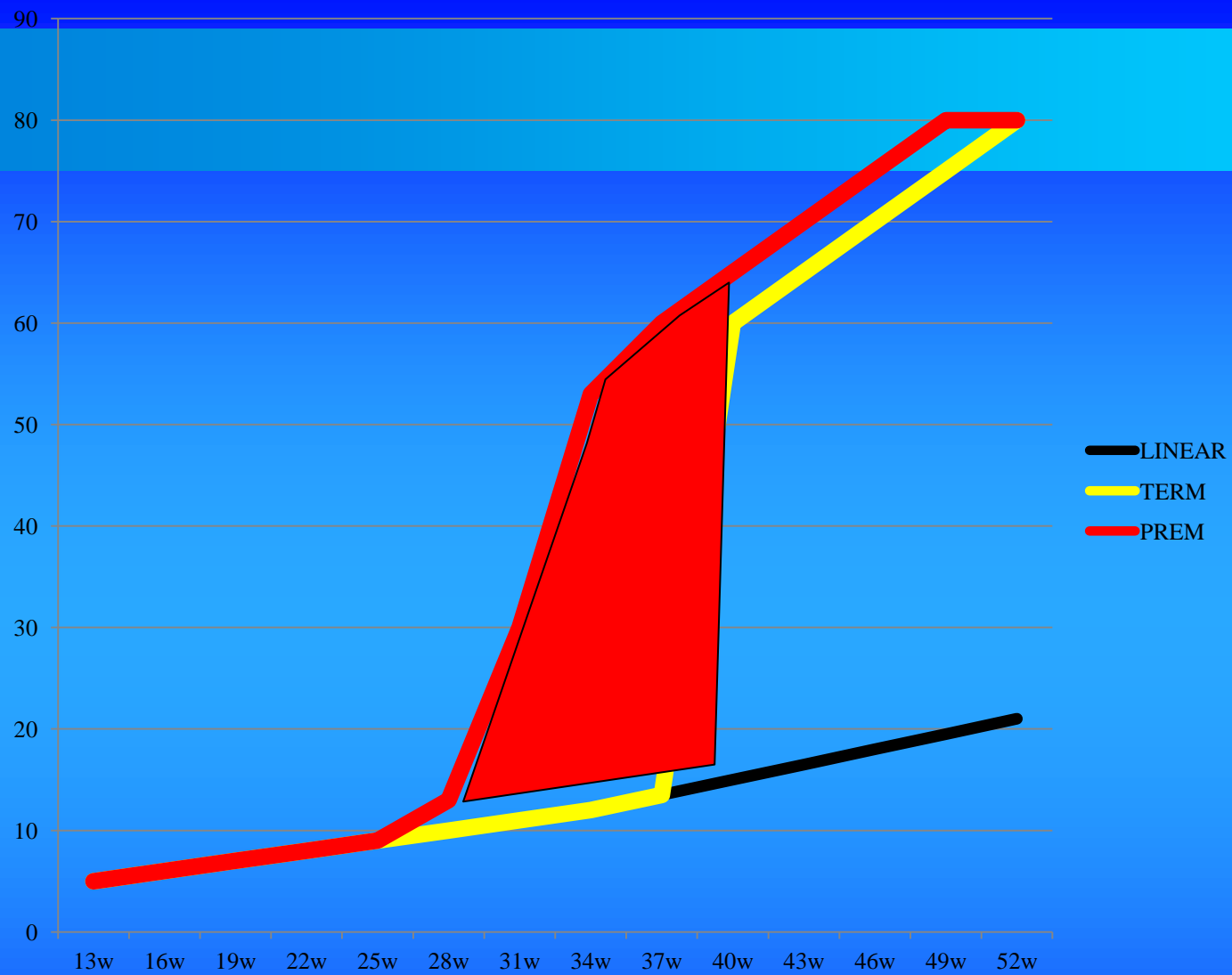
**~ 240 ml/8      = 30ml      →      10ml**

**1,0 baby: 2hrly**

**~ 160 ml/12      = 13ml      →      7ml**







# **Proposed Management →**

**Babies should be fed  
EVERY TIME THEY WAKE !!**

# **Proposed Management →**

**All babies should be fed  
at least once an hour !!**

**Proposed Management →**

**Unreasonable !!!**

**All babies should be fed  
at least once an hour !!**

## The first Milk Ejection Reflex (MER)

elicited in < 2 minutes  
works quickly  
swallowed 1 minute

**Feeding time (max)**  
**3 minutes**

Repeat every 1 hour

The “normal” or usual and  
common breastfeed

takes 15 minutes

discomfort after

burping time 5 minutes

**Feeding time 20 min**

Repeat every 3 hours

3 minute 20ml feeds x 24/d = 72 minutes


20 minute 60ml feeds x 8/d = 160 minutes

SMALL AND FREQUENT FEEDS  
ARE EFFICIENT !!!!

**FEWER NURSES NEEDED !!!**



The calculated daily requirement for a 3kg baby can be given without increase in pressure ....  
→ MINIMAL RISK


$$20 \text{ mls} \times 24 \text{ feeds} \\ = 480 \text{ mls / day}$$

PARENTS CAN DO  
SAFELY !

Surprised ???

**All babies should be fed  
at least once an hour !!**

First two days: **COLOSTRUM**

15 mls / day (Paula Meier)

“one teaspoon,  
three times a day”

From third day: **MILK**

small frequent feeds

(on demand)

between sleeps

Available from Geddes Productions

# **Infant feeding frequency: Proposal based on available evidence and neuroscience**



**“Small and  
frequent feeds,  
adjusted to  
the sleep cycle”**

In the past, whether  
to breastfeed or not  
was a lifestyle choice.

Our new knowledge of the brain  
makes breastfeeding  
a public health issue.

(Gail Storr, Fredericton, NB)

# SUMMARY !!

