**Comparative Study between the Applications of Colostrum versus Alcohol on Cord Separation among Newborns**

**Introduction:**

Umbilical infections are one of the main causes of neonatal morbidity and mortality among the newborns in developing countries, where children are exposed to unhealthy practices with infection rates up to 55-197 per 1000 live births in community studies. About 3.3 million neonatal deaths occur every year worldwide, causing more than 30% of infections. Some of these infections begin with umbilical cord injury that supports the growth of some harmless or beneficial microorganisms. In some studies colostrum application was as effective as standard care and in the case of umbilical cord care breast milk application was more effective than standard care. Because it contains large amounts of IgA antibodies, and these appear to have a preventive effect on skin infections.

**Aim of the study:** The aim of this study was to compare the effect of topical application of colostrum versus alcohol on cord separation among newborns

**Research design:** A quasi- experimental design was undertaken to meet the aim of the study

**Setting:** Obstetric and Gynecological postpartum unit at Sohag, .maternal and child health center (Dar El –Salam Abed- Allah health center) at Sohag city and El Fayoum University Hospital

**sample:**. The sample was randomly assigned into two groups, 100 newborn for each. Group A (colostrum group) who received cord care with colostrum, and group B (alcohol group) who received cord care with alcohol**.** Each group selected randomly by selected the first two week days to colostrum group and another two week days was assigned to alcohol group.

- **Tool for data collection:** There were two tools used in the current study **Tool- I:** Structured interview Questionnaire for mothers was conducted to collect data related to the mothers and their neonates. This tool included two parts: the first part includes data related to the mother as mother's age and educational level; and parity, the second part includes data related to the neonate as gender and birth weight.. **Tool - II:** Follow up observation checklist for monitoring signs of infection , bleeding , cord healing and separation .

**The main results:**

The present study it was observed that cord separation was earlier among colostrum group than alcohol group. And the majority 85% of colostrum group newborns had their cord fallen off at the 5th to 6th day of age. On the other hand, only (30%) of the newborns in the alcohol group had their cord fallen off at the5th to 6th day of age the babies . In the present study in the colostrum group had bleeding one day only after their cord fallen off while the alcohol group had bleeding three days after their cord fallen off after delivery.

**The study concluded that**, Colostrum application is an important practice for umbilical cord care and it reduces time separation of the cord compared to alcohol application practice for cord care among neonates. **Based on the study results it was recommended**. the topical application of colostrum on the remaining part of the rope reduces the rope interval time compared to the care of the alcohol application cord and can be used as an easy, cheap and extended way to care for the cord. Educational training program should be done for postpartum mother in this field