

## References

1. Pretorius ES and Fishman EK. Volume-rendered Three-dimensional Spiral CT: Musculoskeletal applications. *Radiographics* 1999; 19:1143-60.

## Breast Feeding and Antenatal Preparation

Dear Editor,

This is with reference to the article titled "Maternal and neonatal factors adversely affecting breastfeeding in the perinatal period". (*MJAFI* 2005; 61: 216-19.). We have the following comments upon the case report:

The authors must be congratulated for highlighting various risk factors which may interfere with successful establishment of breast feeding in the mother-baby pair. In addition to the various factors mentioned by the authors, antenatal preparation for breast feeding remains very important for successful lactation. The antenatal preparation involves breast examination to look for retracted nipples in the antenatal clinic and advice to the mother about advantages of breastfeeding her baby. This helps in motivation of the mother and successful establishment of oxytocin reflex (milk ejection reflex) at the time of breastfeeding. Unfortunately this important component of the strategies to enhance the success of breastfeeding is often overlooked.

## REPLY

Dear Editor,

We thank the author(s) for their appreciation of our work reported in the article "Maternal and neonatal factors adversely affecting breast feeding in the perinatal period" [1].

We fully agree with the author[s] contention that antenatal preparation of the prospective mother including counselling, examination and management of any anatomical problems with her breasts forms a very important part of effort at ensuring successful breastfeeding.

Our colleagues in the Department of Obstetrics at the tertiary care hospital have been rendering commendable service in this field and as mentioned in the article, regular antenatal counseling for breastfeeding is an integral part of the obstetric services. Examination of the mother's breast is also being done in all prospective mothers

2. Magid D. Two-dimensional and three-dimensional computed tomographic imaging in musculoskeletal tumors. *Radiol Clin North Am* 1993; 31(2): 425-47.

**Wg Cdr A Alam**

Associate Prof (Radiodiagnosis) AFMC, Pune-40.

We carried out a survey of 100 successive mothers who delivered in our hospital. The mothers had been followed up at antenatal clinics at various services health centres locally and referred for delivery to our hospital. Of the 100 mothers, only 22 mothers had breast examination done in the antenatal period and only 17 mothers had received any advice about breast feeding. Seven mothers were found to have retracted nipples in the post natal period which interfered with establishment of successful lactation. These mothers needed special counselling and support for management of sore nipples. Earlier detection of retractile nipples in the antenatal period followed by appropriate maneuvers to make the nipples protractable would have helped in avoiding the breast feeding problems. The antenatal preparation for breast feeding is essential for ensuring the success of breast feeding in the perinatal period.

**Wg Cdr Daljit Singh\*, Fg Offr Amit Kumar\*,  
Lt Col B Ravichander#**

\*Classified Specialist(Paediatrics), Command Hosp (AF), Bangalore-7. #Medical Officer, 35 Wing c/0 56 APO.

antenatally though this was not specifically mentioned in our article.

We thank the author[s] of the above letter for their comments and once again express our full agreement with their observation that antenatal counselling and examination of the breasts of prospective mothers plays an extremely important part in preparing them for successful lactation after childbirth.

## References

1. Narayan S, Natarajan N, Bawa KS. Maternal and neonatal factors adversely affecting breastfeeding in the perinatal period. *MJAFI* 2005; 61: 216-9.

**Surg Cdr S Narayan**

Classified Specialist(Pediatrics), INHS ASVINI, Mumbai-5.