INTRODUCTION

Exclusive breastfeeding covers the nutritional needs of the newborn during the first months of life and decreases the risk of infection.

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this survey was to evaluate the breastfeeding knowledge and practices of mothers who have a newborn hospitalized in neonatal intensive care unit.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- Prospective and retrospective study.
- 60 mother-newborn couples.
- Neonatal intensive care unit in Mohamed VI University Hospital in Marrakech.

RESULTS

- The average age was 30 years with extreme ages ranging from 18 to 43 years old.
- 53% lived in urban areas.
- Women who were illiterate and had a primary level of education accounted for 61%.
- 32% of women were primiparous.
- Related marriage was at 18%.
- 72% of women have already breastfed before, of which 46% were exclusive.
- The pregnancy was followed at 75% of parturients.
- Caesarean section was performed at 13%.
- The delivery was in the hospital at 69%.
- Only 32% had been educated about breastfeeding. The husband participated in 40%.
- The main reason for breastfeeding was the good development of the newborn (52%).

DISCUSSION

- Before the 1980s, breastfeeding was of little concern to health professionals in Morocco, his practice was universal.
- Towards the end of the 1980s, there was already a decline in breastfeeding in favor of artificial breastfeeding.
- Thus, from 1992 to 1997, the exclusive breastfeeding rate increased from 62% to 46%. The mean duration of breastfeeding also decreased during the same period from 15.5 months to 14 months.
- At present, abandonment of breastfeeding is a problem public health.
- Indeed, we are currently witnessing a downward trend in this practice in relation to progress in the manufacture, marketing of milk lack of information and awareness among mothers.
- Especially if it is a newborn hospitalized neonatal intensive care unit, given the distance with the mother or mother also hospitalized in intensive care, assistance by a ventilatory support, absence of sucking reflex, absence of breast milk in addition to psychological difficulties in the parents.

CONCLUSION

The practice of exclusive breastfeeding and partial breastfeeding is marked by wide disparities according to social class, level of education, mode and place of birth.