

## ABSTRACT

# DESCRIPTION OF BREASTFEEDING BEHAVIOR IN LATE PRETERM INFANTS AT PROF. DR MARGONO SOEKARJO GENERAL HOSPITAL

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**Background:** Premature infants often experience difficulties in the feeding process due to immaturity of the oromotor system. An assessment is needed to systematically describe the feeding behavior of premature infants.

**Methodology:** This study was a quantitative descriptive study with a univariate approach involving 24 premature infants. Data were collected through observation of feeding behavior using the Preterm Infants Breastfeeding Behavior Scale (PIBBS), with convenience sampling technique.

**Research results:** Most premature infants had total PIBBS scores predominantly in the better category, particularly in the aspects of sucking, longest sucking burst, and swallowing. However, limitations were still observed in some infants in the aspects of rooting, areolar grasp, and latch-on. The mean PIBBS score was  $14.46 \pm 3.81$ .

**Conclusion:** The feeding behavior of premature infants has not yet fully demonstrated maturity in the feeding process.

**Keywords:** Breast milk; breastfeeding behavior; PIBBS; premature babies

