BAB V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

Premature infants in this study had a mean gestational age of 33.07 weeks, a postmenstrual age of 36.17 weeks, and a birth weight of 1863 grams, with the majority being female. In general, the breastfeeding behavior of premature infants was in the adequate to good category, as indicated by a median total score of 16.00. Feeding behavior patterns based on infant characteristics such as gestational age, chronological age, postmenstrual age, and gender showed a relatively similar distribution without consistent patterns of difference, while the variable of birth weight could not be compared because all respondents were in the same category. Postmenstrual age did not show a statistically significant relationship with feeding behavior, but the positive direction of the relationship still supports the theory of physiological maturation that an increase in postmenstrual age contributes to the maturity of sucking, swallowing, and feeding coordination in premature infants.

B. Suggestion

Suggestion based on the results of this study are intended for nursing students, educational institutions, and next researchers.

a. For healthcare professionals

The assessment of feeding behavior in premature infants should not only be based on postmenstrual age (PMA), but also take into account the overall clinical condition of the infant. Healthcare professionals are expected to monitor feeding abilities individually, including paying attention to factors related to the infant's health that may affect sucking, swallowing, and feeding coordination.

b. For educational and nursing institutions

The results of this study can be used as learning material that the feeding ability of premature infants is multifactorial. Therefore, nursing students and practitioners are expected to improve their understanding

of factors other than age that affect the feeding behavior of premature infants, such as the physiological and clinical conditions of the infant.

c. For parents of premature infants

This study is expected to be useful and serve as a source of information on breastfeeding behavior, especially in the PIBBS instrument structure.

d. For future researchers

Future studies are recommended to include variables related to the clinical condition of premature infants, such as respiratory disorders, infections, use of breathing aids, or other medical conditions that may potentially affect breastfeeding behavior.