Breast-feeding Duration and Infant Atopic Manifestations, by Maternal Allergic Status, in the First 2 Years of Life (KOALA Study)


PURPOSE OF THE STUDY. To investigate the potential effect of modification by maternal allergic status on the relationship between breastfeeding duration and infant atopic manifestations in the first 2 years of life.

STUDY POPULATION. Data from 2705 infants of the KOALA Birth Cohort Study (Netherlands) were analyzed.

RESULTS. Longer duration of breastfeeding was associated with a lower risk for eczema in infants of mothers without allergy or asthma ($P_{trend}=.01$) and slightly lower risk in those of mothers with allergy but no asthma ($P_{trend}=.14$). There was no such association for asthmatic mothers ($P_{trend}=.87$). Longer breastfeeding duration decreased the risk of recurrent wheeze independent of maternal allergy ($P_{trend}=.02$) or asthma ($P_{trend}=.06$) status.

CONCLUSIONS. The findings show that the relationship between breastfeeding and infant eczema in the first 2 years of life is modified by maternal allergic status. The protective effect of breastfeeding on recurrent wheeze may be associated with protection against respiratory infections.

Effect of Prolonged and Exclusive Breastfeeding on Risk of Allergy and Asthma: Cluster Randomised Trial


PURPOSE OF THE STUDY. To evaluate if exclusive and prolonged breastfeeding reduces the risk of childhood asthma and allergy.
Breast-feeding Duration and Infant Atopic Manifestations, by Maternal Allergic Status, in the First 2 Years of Life (KOALA Study)

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