

https://dspace.org/

Beliefs and practices of mothers living with HIV/AIDS regarding infant feeding

Masters, Deanne Pamela

2007-02-22T12:04:29Z
http://hdl.handle.net/10539/2086

Downloaded from a DSpace repository. https://dspace.org/

ABSTRACT

Rationale: Infant feeding practices are currently under the spotlight due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the awareness that the virus may be transmitted through breast milk.

Aim: This study examined the beliefs and practices of mothers living with HIV/AIDS regarding infant feeding.

Method: An exploratory-descriptive cross-sectional survey research design was employed which incorporated both qualitative and quantitative dimensions, and involved the use of individual interviews.

Participants: Forty-two mothers living with HIV who had infants under 6 months of age and attended Coronation Hospital were interviewed.

Results: The majority of mothers living with HIV, reported that they fed their infants formula milk. However, they felt that breastfeeding was still best for their babies. Most of the mothers fed their infants formula milk out of fear of them contracting HIV/AIDS. They appeared to be influenced in their infant feeding decisions by their community, culture and family members.

Conclusions: The findings have implications for enhancing theoretical knowledge and understanding of infant feeding practices and cultural beliefs; early intervention and the clinical practice of speech-language pathologists; the formulation of feeding policies of provincial hospitals; and future research.

KEY WORDS: Feeding practices, cultural beliefs, breastfeeding, bottle-feeding, formula, Human Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV).