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Title

[Is general screening for anemia and iron deficiency justified in nursing infants?]. [Spanish]

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Atencion Primaria. 15(7):446-8, 1995 Apr 30.

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Abstract

OBJECTIVE. To establish the necessity of **anemia** and **iron** deficiency **screening** in breast-feeders in our environment. DESIGN. A crossover study, after data collection from case records. SETTING AND PATIENTS. 93 children of 18 and 24 months living in a urban area. All of them are included in the Healthy Breast-feeder Programme of the Health Center of Teruel city. INTERVENTIONS. Detection in venous blood of hematocrit, hemoglobin, mean corpuscular volume, mean corpuscular hemoglobin, transferrin saturation and ferritin in serum. MEASUREMENTS AND MAIN RESULTS. We founded a 1.1% of **anemia** with **iron** deficiency and a 3.4% of latent **iron** deficiency. We detected a total of 5.4% cases of **iron** deficiency. We didn't find any statistical significance when comparing the haematic values among children who had received different kinds of milk nor in relation with the time in which they got it. We didn't find either any differences when comparing such values among those who had received **iron** prophylaxis and those in which this treatment was not considered necessary. CONCLUSIONS. Therefore we suggest selective **iron** prophylaxis for risk groups and laboratory studies only in those with evident signs of **anemia** or **iron** deficiency.



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