

**EARLY FEEDING WITH COW'S MILK AND SOLID FOODS IN INFANCY AND RISK OF INSULIN-DEPENDENT DIABETES MELLITUS****F. Shidfar<sup>1</sup>, Z. Mazhari<sup>1</sup>, S.H. YarAhmadi<sup>2</sup>, A. Keshavarz<sup>1</sup>, S.H. Shidfar<sup>3</sup>**

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In order to find out whether or not breast-feeding decrease the risk of insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM) during childhood, we studied 95 diabetic children less than 10 years of age and 95 non-diabetic control subjects matched with regard to age, sex, socioeconomic status and geographical location. Parents of the diabetic and control group children completed pre-tested questionnaires. The result showed that, the exclusive breast-feeding period was shorter in diabetic children (4.1 ± 2.2 months) than the control group children (4.9 ± 3.9) but the differences were not statistically significant. 17.3% of diabetic children and 23.1% of control group children had never been breast-fed. The corresponding proportions for feeding with cow's milk were 56.9% and 37.6% and for formula feeding were 62.4% and 59.8% respectively. There was no statistically significant difference between the diabetic and non-diabetic children with regard to the age of introduction of solid foods (7.3 ± 5.3 and 5.6 ± 3.4 months respectively). This study does not support the hypothesis that early introduction of cow's milk or formula or a short period of breast-feeding in infancy may increase the risk of developing type 1 diabetes mellitus (IDDM).

