

## COW'S-MILK ALLERGY IN A BREAST-FED INFANT

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This is a case report presenting hypersensitivity to cow's milk in an exclusively breast-fed infant. The patient is male, with a positive family history for atopy and with no prior illness. Symptoms began at the age of 3 months as feeding problems: he refused to suck at the breast and stopped thriving. The boy also refused infant formula, and perioral redness appeared following contact with formula.

Diagnostic work-up revealed no signs of concomitant infection. Slightly elevated serum IgE levels were observed. The investigation of the gastrointestinal tract showed diffuse histological hypersensitivity reaction, with eosinophiles invading the mucosa of the stomach, small intestine and colon (~30 Eo/high power field). Symptoms disappeared and intestinal histology normalized when a milk-free diet was given to the breast-feeding mother. The diagnosis of cow-milk allergy was challenged by an exposure test at the age of 8 months, when the mother started consuming dairy products. Histology was again in favor of eosinophilic colitis (>20 Eo/HPF), but with no evident clinical consequences. Therefore the same dietary regime was continued and at the age of 10 months a new biopsy showed normal architecture and no tissue eosinophilia. At the age of 2 years the boy eats dairy products and has no signs of allergy whatsoever.

In conclusion, this boy is one of the rare patients reacting even to small cow's milk protein antigen content in breast-milk. Clinical tolerance preceded histological recovery of the intestinal tract.

