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Title: A survey on midwives' knowledge & attitudes towards breastfeeding in an obstetric department of a regional hospital

ABSTRACT

This descriptive survey was used to explore midwives' current knowledge level and attitude towards breastfeeding in order to identify any needs for further training. A convenience total sampling of 110 midwives of all rank working in Obstetric Department of Tuen Mun Hospital were surveyed with the use of a set of self-reported questionnaire. 85 anonymous responses were received and made up 77.3% response rate. 6 questionnaires were unable for used and discarded. Therefore, 79 questionnaires were available for this study.

The results showed that 66% of the midwives got more than thirteen out of twenty knowledge questions correct. Knowledge inadequate that required further education was found in several areas including the signs of effective suckling and getting enough breast milk; the physiology of milk production; the composition of breast milk; timing feeding; hot weather and breastfeeding. Most of the midwives, attitude towards breastfeeding was positive in this study. 95% of them agreed that it was their role and responsibilities to promote and support breastfeeding. However, more than half of them spent no time or less than 30 minutes of working time on breastfeeding issues. This could be related to the lack of time and breastfeeding knowledge. In order to promote breastfeeding successfully and adequate support the breastfeeding clients, continue education and further training programs on breastfeeding were definitely necessary.