TITLE: Risk of Disease Transmission via Unscreened Breast Milk: Clinical Evidence

DATE: 02 February 2016

RESEARCH QUESTION

What is the clinical evidence regarding the risk of transmission of infectious diseases to infants via unscreened breast milk?

KEY FINDINGS

No relevant literature was identified regarding the risk of transmission of infectious diseases to infants via unscreened breast milk.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library, University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2011 and January 25, 2016. Internet links are provided, where available.

SELECTION CRITERIA

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.
Table 1: Selection Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Infants</th>
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<tr>
<td>Intervention</td>
<td>Breast milk obtained from an individual other than the infant’s mother that has not been screened for infection potential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comparators</td>
<td>Screened donated breast milk; Mother’s milk; No comparator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outcomes</td>
<td>Risk of disease transmission (e.g., HIV, Hepatitis C); Safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study Designs</td>
<td>Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies</td>
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</table>

RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials and non-randomized studies.

No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, or non-randomized studies were identified regarding the risk of transmission of infectious diseases to infants via unscreened breast milk.

References of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses
No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials
No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies
No literature identified.

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Non-Randomized Studies

Infection Transmission (Not Disease)


Alternate Outcomes


Qualitative Studies


**Clinical Practice Guidelines and Position Statements – Methodology Not Specified**


   See: Section 5.5: Breast Milk Banks in Victoria, page 74

**Additional References**


15. FDA. Use of human donor milk [Internet]. Silver Spring (MD): U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA); 2015 [cited 2016 Feb 01]. Available from: http://www.fda.gov/ScienceResearch/SpecialTopics/PediatricTherapeuticsResearch/ucm235203.htm


   See: Transmission


