

## How Can Nutrition Support Neonatal Neuro Development & Protection?



### *The Gut-Brain Axis*



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## Disclosure Statement

### • Disclosure Statement

- I am an employee of Prolacta Bioscience
- I currently present and receive financial reimbursement
  - Prolacta Bioscience
  - Abbott Nutrition Health Institute (ANHI)

### • I personally developed this slide deck for strictly educational purposes and audiences

- Images & photographs used in the presentation are from publicly accessed sources
- It without bias, branding or commercial influence; it is evidenced-based
- I will make no recommendation for any off-label use of any drug, nutritional, or medical device

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## Nutrition: The Gut-Brain Axis

### • Behavioral Objectives

- Review the nutritional needs of the fetal/neonatal brain and the growth needs of emerging neurodevelopment.
- Describe the reduction of two comorbidities of prematurity reduced with early aggressive nutrition.
- Discuss the benefits of early enteral nutrition and growth and development of the infant's immune system.
- Identify factors associated with the development of "dysbiosis" in the premature infant gut.
- Describe the "Gut-Brain Axis" (GBA) and its potential vulnerability in the preterm infant.
- Identify two benefits of human milk human feeding on modulating intestinal dysbiosis.

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## The Significance of Growth

### • Why “Significant” and Not Just “Important” ?

– Significance implies

- *“The extent to which something matters”*
- *“Unlikely to have occurred by chance”*
- *“Implies relative or quantifiable importance”*



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## The Significance of Growth

### • The Neonatal Brain

- Human infant brain is comparatively underdeveloped



*“A human fetus would have to undergo a gestational period of 18 to 21 months to be born at a neurological and cognitive development stage comparable to that of a chimpanzee newborn”.*



Wong K 2012. Why humans give birth to helpless babies. Observation. Scientific America, August 28, 2012 <https://blogs.sciencemag.com/observers/why-humans-give-birth-to-fragile-babies/>

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## The Significance of Growth

### • Five Basic Processes | Brain Development

- **Neurogenesis** – formation of neurons
- **Neural migration** - process of organizing the brain by moving neurons to specific areas based on the functions these cells will perform
- **Myelination** - process of coating the with a lipoprotein that protects the neuron and helps it conduct signals more efficiently
- **Synaptogenesis** - process of forming networks of connections/synapses in both CNS/periphery
- **Pruning** - process of eliminating unnecessary/obsolete connections and strengthening the important ones



Ramel DE & Georgieff MK (2014). Preterm nutrition and the brain. World Rev Nutr Diet. <https://doi.org/10.1159/000358467>. Epub 2014 Apr 11.

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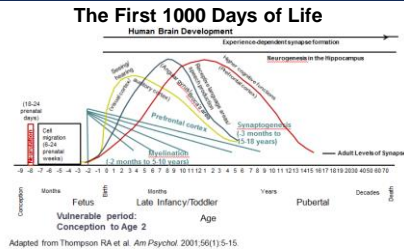
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## The Significance of Growth



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## The Significance of Growth

*“The brain is the most highly metabolic organ in the preterm neonate and consumes the greatest amount of nutrient resources for its function and growth.”*



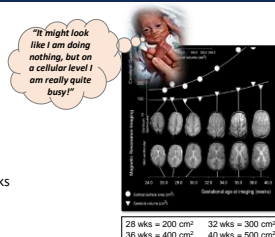
Ramel DE & Georgieff MK (2014). Preterm nutrition and the brain. *World Rev Nutr Diet*. [World Rev Nutr Diet](https://doi.org/10.1159/000358467). 2014;110:190-200. doi: 10.1159/000358467. Epub 2014 Apr 11.

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## The Significance of Growth

### Brain Development

- Neurons generated at a rate of 250,000 per minute
- 1.8 million new synapses form every second
- Fetal brain increases in size/mass by 5% every 48 hours
- Cerebral cortex is last to develop increasing 5-fold from 35-41 weeks
- **70% of every calorie is used for brain growth**



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## The Significance of Growth

### • Trends in Neurodevelopmental Outcomes - Study Design

- A retrospective multicenter cohort of 30,793 preterm infants
- Born at a gestational age  $\leq 32$  weeks, between 2003 and 2012
- Part of the Neonatal Research Network, Japan
- N=13,661 infants were followed-up until 3 years of age
- Evaluated for neurodevelopmental outcomes, including:
  - Cerebral palsy (CP)
  - Home oxygen therapy
  - Visual, hearing, and cognitive impairments
- Multivariable logistic regression analysis was performed

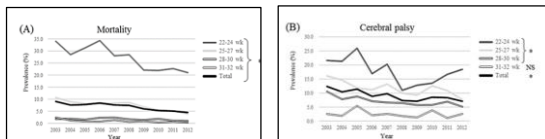


Nakanishi H et al. Trends in the neurodevelopmental outcomes among preterm infants from 2003–2012: a retrospective cohort study in Japan. *J Perinatol* 38; 917–928 (2018) <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41372-018-0061-7>

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## The Significance of Growth

### • Trends in Neurodevelopmental Outcome

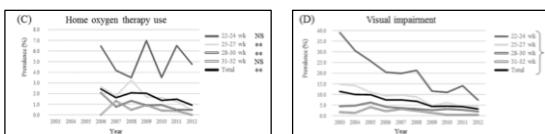


Nakanishi H et al. Trends in the neurodevelopmental outcomes among preterm infants from 2003–2012: a retrospective cohort study in Japan. *J Perinatol* 38; 917–928 (2018) <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41372-018-0061-7>

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## The Significance of Growth

### • Trends in Neurodevelopmental Outcome

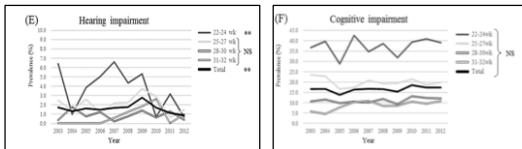


Nakanishi H et al. Trends in the neurodevelopmental outcomes among preterm infants from 2003–2012: a retrospective cohort study in Japan. *J Perinatol* 38; 917–928 (2018) <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41372-018-0061-7>

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## The Significance of Growth

### • Trends in Neurodevelopmental Outcome



Nakanishi H et al. Trends in the neurodevelopmental outcomes among preterm infants from 2003–2012: a retrospective cohort study in Japan. *J Perinatol* 38; 917–928 (2018) <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41372-018-0061-7>

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## The Significance of Growth

### • Outcome Discussion

- *Nutritional support remained correlated with long-term neurodevelopmental outcomes*
- The AOR of time to establishment of enteral feeding (with 5-day increments) for all disabilities suggested that the *shorter the time to the establishment of full enteral feeding, the lower the prevalence of abnormal long-term neurodevelopmental outcomes*



Nakanishi H et al. Trends in the neurodevelopmental outcomes among preterm infants from 2003–2012: a retrospective cohort study in Japan. *J Perinatol* 38; 917–928 (2018) <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41372-018-0061-7>

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## The Significance of Growth

### • Adverse Outcomes to Adults Born Premature/LBW

PARAMETER	ADVERSE SEQUELAE IN ADULTS BORN PRETERM/LBW
Neurological	Significant decrease in brain volume Increased risk of neurological disabilities
Cardiovascular/Metabolic	↓ Insulin sensitivity, hypertension ↑ Intraabdominal fat; ↑ Risk metabolic complications ↑ Arterial stiffness ↑ Risk of metabolic syndrome ↓ Ventricular size and volume Impaired systolic function
Bone Health	Significantly lower bone/mineral density Short stature

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## The Significance of Growth



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## The Significance of Growth

### • Early Aggressive Nutrition

*"Nutritional requirements do not stop at birth."*

*Thus, delaying nutrition after birth 'until the infant is stable' ignores the fundamental point that without nutrition starting immediately after birth, the infant enters a catabolic condition, and catabolism does not contribute to normal development and growth."*

**"NUTRITIONAL RESUSCITATION"**

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## The Significance of Growth

### • Benefits of Early Aggressive Nutrition

- Higher verbal intelligence quotient (IQ) scores and improved cognitive function long term
- Better nutrition in the early postnatal period in preterm infants results in ↑protein and energy intake during the first week of life in extremely LBW infants
- *This is associated with higher mental development index scores and lower risk of growth retardation at 18 months*

Isaacs EB, Gadian DG, Sabatini S, Chong WK, Quinn BT, Fischl BR, et al. The effect of early human diet on caudate volumes and IQ. *Pediatr Res* (2008) 63:308–14. doi:10.1203/PDR.0b013e318163a271

Franz AR, Pohlandt F, Bode H, Mihatsch WA, Sander S, Kron M, et al. Intrauterine, early neonatal, and postdischarge growth and neurodevelopmental outcome at 5.4 years in extremely preterm infants after intensive neonatal nutritional support. *Pediatrics* (2009) 123:e101–9. doi:10.1542/peds.2008-1352

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## The Significance of Growth

### • Benefits of Early Aggressive Nutrition

- Early/higher protein + energy intake correlated with faster  $\uparrow$  head growth and head circumference in preterm infants
- $\uparrow$  in head circumference has been positively correlated with improved cognitive outcomes
- *Administration of early aggressive nutritional enteral and parenteral support may help improve growth and developmental outcomes in preterm LBW infants*

Brandt I, Sticker EJ, Lentze MJ. Catch-up growth of head circumference of very low birth weight, small for gestational age preterm infants and mental development to adulthood. *J Pediatr* (2003) 142:463–8. doi:10.1067/jmpd.2003.149

Morgan C, McGowan P, Herwig S, Hart AE, Turner MA. Postnatal head growth in preterm infants: a randomized controlled parenteral nutrition study. *Pediatrics* (2014) 133:e120–8. doi:10.1542/peds.2013-2207

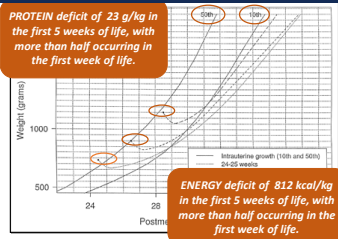
Ehrenkranz RA. Early, aggressive nutritional management for very low birth weight infants: what is the evidence? *Semin Perinatol* (2007) 31:48–55. doi:10.1053/j.semper.2007.02.001

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## The Significance of Growth

Preterm infants less than 30 weeks gestation develop a...

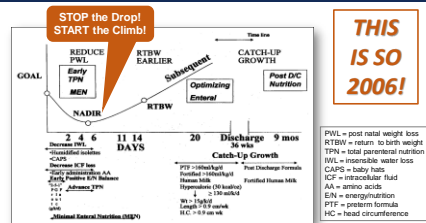
**THIS IS SO 1999!**



Ehrenkranz, R.A. (1999). *Pediatrics*, 104:280-290.

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## The Significance of Growth



Adamskin, D. H. (2006). Nutrition management of the very low birthweight infant. *NeoReviews*, 7(12): e602.

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## The Significance of Growth

### • Nutritional Goals for Preterm Infants

- For infants weighing 501 to 1500 g at birth, average growth velocity (GV) increased and the percentage with postnatal growth failure decreased from 2000 to 2013.

- However, in 2013, half of these infants still demonstrated postnatal growth failure and one-quarter demonstrated severe postnatal growth failure.*



Horbar JD, Ehrenkranz JA, et. al. Weight Growth Velocity and Postnatal Growth Failure in Infants 501 to 1500 Grams: 2000–2013. *Pediatrics* Jul 2015; 136 (1) e84–e92; DOI: 10.1542/peds.2015-0129

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## The Significance of Growth

### • A New Diet in the NICU

- Sustainable

**ALL  
HUMAN  
SOURCED  
NUTRITION**



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## The Significance of Growth

### • Exclusive Human Milk Diet (EHMD)

#### • Ex-clu-sive [ik-SKLOO-siv, -ziv]

- Not admitting of something else or other things
- Limited to the object or objects designated
- Shutting all others from a part or share

**"Exclusive"**  
The state of being in a relationship with someone where you are officially boyfriend and girlfriend, *and there is no one else involved*. It's usually attained after going on a couple of good dates.



Dictionary.com, meanings and definitions of words  
<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/exclusive>

The Urban Dictionary, compiled by Aston Peckham  
<http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=exclusive>

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## The Significance of Growth

### • EHMD Feeding Protocol

**THIS IS SO 2020!**

Birthweight 751-1250g Feeding Guidelines					
DOL	Kcal/oz EBM or DM	Feeding Volume (mL/kg/day)	TPN (mL/kg/day)	Lipids (mL/kg/day)	Total Fluids <sup>2</sup> = Enteral + TPN + IL (mL/kg/day)
1	20	15-20	90-100	5-10	120
2	20	15-20	95-105	10-15	130
3	20	15-20	115-120	15	150
4	20	40	95	15	150
5	26 (Prolact+6)	60	75	15	150
6	26 (Prolact+6)	80	55-70	15 or Off Lipids	150

Guidelines for Acute Care of the Neonate, 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2016-2017.  
Section of Neonatology, Department of Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Children's.

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## The Significance of Growth

### • EHMD Feeding Protocol

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DOL	Kcal/oz EBM or DM	Feeding Volume (mL/kg/day)	TPN (mL/kg/day)	Lipids (mL/kg/day)	Total Fluids <sup>2</sup> = Enteral + TPN + IL (mL/kg/day)
6	26 (Prolact+6)	80	55-70	15 or Off	150
7	26 (Prolact+6)	100	50	0	150
8	26 (Prolact+6)	120	Off TPN	0	120 Off TPN or IV Fluids
9	26 (Prolact+6)	140	0	0	140
10	26 (Prolact+6)	160	0	0	160 Full Enteral Feeds
10-14	26 (Prolact+6) +Cream	160	0	0	160

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## The Significance of Growth

### • Immunity and Nutrition

***"Nutrition is a critical determinant of immune responses and malnutrition is the most common cause of immunodeficiency."***

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## The Gut-Brain Axis

### • Immunity and Nutrition

- **Protein-energy malnutrition associated with**
  - Significant impairment of cell-mediated immunity
  - Impaired phagocyte function
  - Deficiencies in the complement system
  - Decreased secretory immunoglobulin antibody concentrations
  - Lowered cytokine production
- **Deficiency of single nutrients alters immune responses**
  - Selenium, copper, folic acid, zinc
  - Vitamins A, C, E, and B-6



Chandra, RK Nutrition and the immune system: an introduction. *Am J Clin Nutr*, 1997 Aug;66(2):460S-463S.

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## The Significance of Growth

### • Immunity and Nutrition

#### – Neonatal Innate Immunity

- First line of defense at birth
- Provides immediate protection at a local/cellular level
- Acts with non-specific responses
- Uses “*pro-inflammatory*” mechanisms
- Vasodilatation, cellular activation, microvascular permeability, coagulation
- Secondary collateral damage



Cachoz NT & Lawrence RM (2017). *Front. Immunol.*, 29 May 2017 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2017.00584>  
 Jakaitis BM & Denenberg PW (2014) Clinics in Perinatology: 41-623-435 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cip.2014.02.011>

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## The Significance of Growth

### • Immunity and Nutrition

#### – Neonatal Adaptive Immunity

- Later developed immune response
- Requires exposure to antigens
- Amplifies with repeated exposure
- High “*specificity*” of response
- Relies on T & B cells and “*memory*”
- Elaborate cascade of responses
- Balanced response



Cachoz NT & Lawrence RM (2017). *Front. Immunol.*, 29 May 2017 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2017.00584>  
 Jakaitis BM & Denenberg PW (2014) Clinics in Perinatology: 41-623-435 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cip.2014.02.011>

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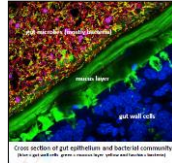
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## The Gut-Brain Axis

### • Insults Affecting the Premature Gut

- Immaturity of the end organ system
- Hypoxic-ischemic reperfusion injuries
- Infection/inflammation
- Impaired gut lumen integrity
- Mode of delivery
- Antibiotic exposure
- Luminal starvation

### • ALTERED MICROBIAL COLONIZATION



Neu J & Bernstein, H Update on host defense and immunonutrients Clinics in Perinatology 29(1), 2002.  
Jakaitis BM & Denning PW (2014) Clinics in Perinatology: 4142435http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cip.2014.02.011

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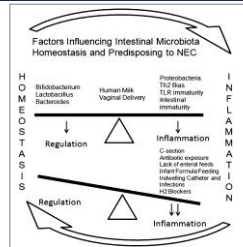
## The Gut-Brain Axis

Factors Influencing the Intestinal Microbiome and Predisposing to Feeding Intolerance and NEC

### Dysbiosis

*"probably the key event associated with the pathogenesis of NEC"*

Torreza RM & Neu J Clin Perinatol 40 (2013) 93-108  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cip.2013.12.008>  
Sherman MP, Zagorani H, & Niklas V. Pediatric Research(2015)  
Volume: 77, Pages:127-135 DOI:10.1038/pr.2014.161



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## The Gut-Brain Axis

### • The Gut Brain Axis (GBA)

*"While microbial colonization of the gut is important for immune system development, it also acts in concert with diet to promote healthy brain development."*

Diaz Heijtz R, Wang S, Anuar F, et al Normal gut microbiota modulates brain development and behavior. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 2011;108:3047-52.  
Douglas E, Cohen M, Elzein E, Joubert N Effect of intestinal microbial ecology on the developing brain. JAMA Pediatr Clin North Am 2013;107:189-207.

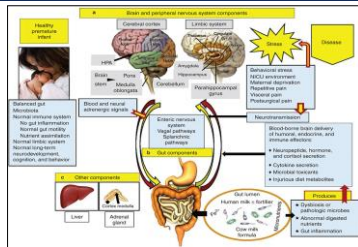
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## The Gut-Brain Axis

### Neonatal GBA "Gut-Brain Axis"



Sherman MP, Zaghouani H, & Niklas V. *Pediatric Research* (2015) Volume: 77, Pages:127-135  
DOI:doi:10.1038/pr.2014.161



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## The Gut-Brain Axis

- "GBA: Gut-Brain Axis" in Preterm/Sick Newborns
  - ↓ Gut barrier function
  - ↑ Bacterial translocation
  - ↑ Activation of immune cells/inflammation
  - ↑ Activation of HPA (Hypothalamic Pituitary Axis)
  - ↑ Physiologic stress → ↑ cortisol release
  - Triggering further pro/anti-inflammatory downstream activity

**Inflammation and Hypermetabolic State**



Sherman MP, Zaghouani H, & Niklas V. *Pediatric Research* (2015) Volume: 77, Pages:127-135 DOI:doi:10.1038/pr.2014.161

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## The Gut-Brain Axis

- GBA: Gut-Brain Axis in Preterm and Sick Newborns
  - Activation of peripheral components GBA
  - Including activation of the CNS, ANS and SNS
  - Transmitted via the Enteric Nervous System
  - Gut microbes modulate neural signaling
  - ↓ Barrier function; ↑ bacterial translocation
  - ↑ Activation of immune cells/inflammation

**Inflammation and Hypermetabolic State**



Sherman MP, Zaghouani H, & Niklas V. *Pediatric Research* (2015) Volume: 77, Pages:127-135 DOI:doi:10.1038/pr.2014.161

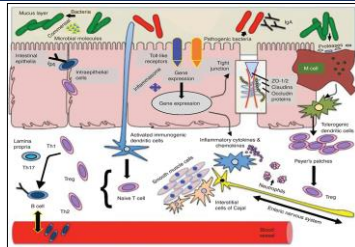
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## The Gut-Brain Axis

### Neonatal GBA "Gut-Brain Axis"



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DOI:doi:10.1038/pr.2014.161



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## The Gut-Brain Axis

### • GBA: Gut-Brain Axis

- ↑ Activation of HPA (Hypothalamic Pituitary Axis)
- ↑ Stress → ↑ cortisol release
- Further activation of intestinal immune cells
- Triggering further pro/anti-inflammatory activity
- **Inflammasomes** – multiprotein complexes
  - ↑ Pro-inflammatory cytokines (IL-1,18,33)
- Altered brain development and function
- Role in NEC → and **long term ND abnormalities**

**Inflammation is a Hypermetabolic State**



Sherman MP, Zaghouani H, & Niklas V. *Pediatric Research* (2015) Volume: 77, Pages:127-135 DOI:doi:10.1038/pr.2014.161

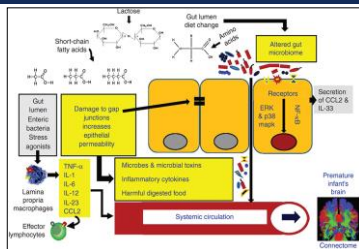
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## The Gut-Brain Axis

### Neonatal GBA "Gut-Brain Axis"



Sherman MP, Zaghouani H, & Niklas V. *Pediatric Research* (2015) Volume: 77, Pages:127-135  
DOI:doi:10.1038/pr.2014.161



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## The Gut-Brain Axis

### • “Gut-Brain Axis” in Preterm and Sick Newborns

#### • Functional communication

- Operates in a bidirectional signaling system
  - “*Top-down and bottom-up*” effects
- Emerging evidence linking intestinal “*dysbiosis*” of the microbiome in preterm infants to:
  - Preceding late-onset neonatal sepsis and NEC
  - Neurodevelopmental disease outcomes
  - Key role in early programming of health outcomes

#### *Inflammation and Hypermetabolic State*



Cong X, XU W, Janton S, Henderson WA, Matson A, McGrath JM, et al. (2016) PLOS ONE 11(4): e0152751. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0152751 April 25, 2016  
 Sherman MP, Zaprawa H, & Niklas V. Pediatric Research (2015) Volume: 77, Pages: 127–135 DOI:doi:10.1038/pr.2014.161

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## The Gut-Brain Axis



*“Get him/her some milk!”*



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## The Gut-Brain Axis

### • Human Milk Oligosaccharides (HMOs)

*“HMO provides the newborn with a variety of bioactive factors that promote a healthy colonization of the neonatal gut and support the maturation of the neonatal immune system.”*

Jantscher-Kriem E & Bode L (2012). Human milk oligosaccharides and their potential benefits for the breast-fed neonate. *Minerva Pediatr*, 64(1):83-99.

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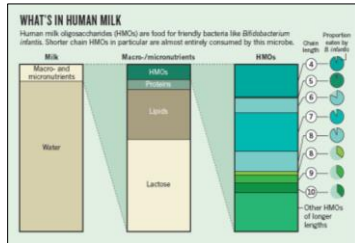
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## The Gut-Brain Axis

### The Benefits of a Human Milk Diet

Pfeiffer A. Development. Mother's milk: a rich opportunity. *Nature* volume 468, pages 55–57 (23 December 2010)



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## The Gut-Brain Axis

### • Human Milk Oligosaccharides (HMOs)

- Structurally complex, diverse sugars
  - Composed of 5 monosaccharide "building blocks"
  - HMOs are HMOs mount/composition varies during pregnancy
- Wide range of interpersonal variation in HMOs
  - Not every woman synthesizes the same HMOs
  - "Partial" and/or "non-secretor" status
  - Composition influenced by maternal genetic factors and blood type



\*Nilas, V & Autran C (2019) *Neonatal Intensive Care* 32(3).  
 \*Bode L (2012). *Glycobiology* 22(9); 147-162 doi:10.1093/Glycobias274.  
 \*Jantscher-Renn E & Bode L. *Minerva Pediatric* 2012;64:83-99

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## The Gut-Brain Axis

### • Human Milk Oligosaccharides (HMOs)

- ~150-200 HMOs present in human milk
  - Present in colostrum, early, and mature milk
  - ↑ HMO in colostrum
  - ↑ HMO in preterm infant
  - ↓ HMO in mature milk
- Diverse variety and large number in donor milk
- Survive pasteurization intact**



\*Nilas, V & Autran C (2019) *Neonatal Intensive Care* 32(3).  
 \*Bode L (2012). *Glycobiology* 22(9); 147-162 doi:10.1093/Glycobias274.  
 \*Jantscher-Renn E & Bode L. *Minerva Pediatric* 2012;64:83-99

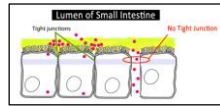
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## The Gut-Brain Axis

### • Human Milk Oligosaccharides (HMOs)

#### • Beneficial Role in the Neonatal Gut

- Function as **"PREBIOTICS"**
- Provide food for commensal bacteria
- Microbes then release SCFA
- Which feed gut cells
- Facilitate production → junction proteins
- ↓ **"translocation"** of pathogens
- Restricts pathogens → systemic circulation
- Provides anti-inflammatory molecules



Lewis, Erin D. et al. (2016). The importance of human milk for immunity in preterm infants. *Clinics in Perinatology*, 44(1): 23-47. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clp.2016.11.008>

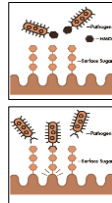
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## The Gut-Brain Axis

### • Human Milk Oligosaccharides (HMO)

#### • Beneficial Roles in the Neonatal Gut

- Anti-adhesive antimicrobials
- Prevent attachment of pathogens on mucosal/epithelial surfaces
- Serve as soluble decoy receptors
- Regulates **immune-inflammatory processes connecting the intestine, liver, muscle, and brain (GBA)**



Bode L. (2012). *Glycobiology* 22(9): 147-162. doi:10.1093/glycob/cws074; Jantscher-Krenn E. & Bode L. *Minerva Pediatr* 2012;64:83-99

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## The Gut-Brain Axis

### • Immunonutrition

*"The modulation of the immune and inflammatory responses in critically ill patients with the use of enteral feedings enriched with immune-enhancing ingredients".*

**Insults Premature Gut**  
Immaturity of end organ system  
Luminal starvation  
Hypoxic-ischemic reperfusion  
Inflammation/infection  
Antibiotic exposure  
Altered GI colonization  
**"INFLAMMATION"**

**"DYSBIOSIS"**

**"SYMBIOSIS"**



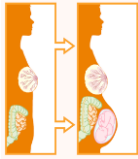
**Benefits of HM**  
Decreased inflammation  
Less oxidative stress  
Maturation of immune system  
Maturation of gut defenses  
Normalization of the microbiome  
Role in Gut-Brain-Axis (GBA)  
**"HOMEOSTASIS"**

Torrazza RM & Neu J *Clin Perinatol* 40 (2013) 93-108  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.clp.2012.12.009>

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## The Gut-Brain Axis



### • Human Milk Microbiome

- Directly shapes the infant's intestinal microbiome
- Human milk oligosaccharide (HMO) drives the growth of these microbes within the gut

*"This unique milieu of enhanced immune protection with **diminished inflammation** results from a complex interaction of **anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidative factors** provided by human milk to the intestine."*

Cacho NT & Lawrence RM (2017). Innate immunity and breast milk. *Front. Immunol.* 29 May 2017 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2017.00584>

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## The Gut-Brain Axis

*"Further improvements in growth for VLBW infants will require NICU teams to accept that postnatal growth failure is a serious morbidity amenable to prevention and to engage in quality improvement initiatives designed to implement nutritional practices supported by currently available evidence".*

Horbar JB, Ehrenkranz JA, et. al. Weight Growth Velocity and Postnatal Growth Failure in Infants 501 to 1500 Grams: 2000–2013. *Pediatrics* Jul 2015; 136 (1) e84-e92; DOI: 10.1542/peds.2015-0129

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