

Case Studies

Sharon

Sharon's son Darnell is two days old, scheduled cesarean birth. Sharon has had a lot of visitors over the past two days, and she felt uncomfortable asking people to leave so she could breastfeed. Darnell was very sleepy on the first day, and Sharon has had trouble stimulating him to breastfeed every three hours. Today, he has been showing feeding behaviors nonstop. He wants to stay at the breast constantly, nursing every hour. Sharon just finished her dinner and she is exhausted from feeding him so frequently all day. She also worries that his behavior means that she doesn't have enough milk.

1. What is your next step?
2. How will you address Sharon's concern that she does not have enough milk?
3. Any other interventions that might be needed here?

Rachel

Rachel gave birth to her first baby, Owen, at 36 weeks. Owen's APGARs are 7 and 9 and other vital signs are good. Usually late preterm babies like Owen are sent to the nursery for observation, thermoregulation and blood glucose monitoring for several hours. Rachel however plans to exclusively breastfeed for several months and hopes to continue breastfeeding for at least one year. She really does not want her baby to go to the nursery. Owen is 15 minutes old.

1. What is your next step?
2. How can you advocate for Rachel & Owen while maintaining Owen's temperature and blood sugar levels?
3. What interventions might be needed to ensure Owen is feeding effectively over the next few days?

Jaycelle

Jaycelle is 17 years old and gave birth to Tyree last night at 0230. She wasn't sure if she wanted to breastfeed so Tyree was given 40 ml of formula before transfer to the mother/baby area. At 0900, the mother/baby RN calls the lactation consultant because "I can't get this baby to eat and he should be hungry by now. Mom is wanting to try breastfeeding too." The lactation consultant is not available due to other high acuity patients and you are called to help this couplet.

1. What is your next step?

2. How will you encourage Jaycelle to exclusively breastfeed?

3. What could have been done differently?

Adrianna

Adrianna has been on bed rest for preterm labor and threatened abruption. She had an emergency cesarean at 23 weeks 18 hours ago. The baby is in the NICU with uncertain prognosis. Her first baby was also very preterm and did not survive. This time she told the doctors to do everything they could to save her baby. Adrianna was planning to breastfeed and so far, no one has mentioned it to her.

1. What is your next step?
2. What if you help Adrianna with milk expression and her baby does not survive?
3. What if you wait to see if the baby is going to survive before talking to Adrianna about milk expression?