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Transmission of Salmonella

The mode of transmission for *S. typhi* is water, food borne or vertical transmission. It is surprising to have typhoid fever in an exclusively breast fed 4 months-old-infant(1). Will the authors give the likely explanation regarding mode of transmission in that particular case.

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REFERENCE

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Reply

We appreciate the comments on our article. The most common mode of transmission of *S. typhi* is through ingestion of contaminated water or food. Rarely,

infection may be transmitted from mother to fetus by transplacental route. Since the infant reported was breastfed, food can be excluded as a source of infection. There was no history of typhoid fever in the mother but she was not investigated for the carrier state. We believe that the most likely source of infection in the present infant was the ingestion of contaminated water. The parents are in habit of giving small amount of water to infants, especially during summer months.

Probably the confusion has arisen over the use of the term "exclusive breastfeeding" in the article. We intended to mean that the infant was not given any other food item besides the breast milk, which could have served as a vehicle for transmission of *S. typhi*.

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