

## Comments

No one would ever dream of giving feeds with a 'jhinook' or Palada' to a baby who does not have co-ordinated sucking and swallowing reflexes. Such a baby has to be obviously tube fed. All low birth weight babies have to be fed under supervision and any nursing home or institution that does not have facilities for this, should not conduct deliveries.

There is much less chance of a baby developing infection with 'Jhinook' than with inadequately sterilized feeding bottles. The mother can easily be taught how not to contaminate milk with her fingers. There is a much greater possibility of overfeeding with a bottle rather than with 'Jhinook'. The aim of spoon feeding is to tide over the period when a baby does not suck effectively, and to switch to direct breastfeeding when

sucking becomes effective. In a rare case where the mother is not able to breastfeed at all, we would have to forego the advantage of sucking from a bottle in view of the high risk of infection from bottle feeding. Solar sterilization appears to be an impractical method to prevent infection. Are the authors visualizing packaged solar sterilized feeding bottles in departmental stores?

There are innumerable studies from India and other countries in favor of spoon/Jhinook feeding. I saw this being done successfully by mothers in Dr. Jayam's Neonatal Unit (Madras) almost fifteen years ago! 'Jhinook' is a traditional spoon for feeding and mothers have been using it long before the medical profession even heard of it. They can easily be taught about how to keep it clean.

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