

JOURNAL OF BIOSOCIAL SCIENCE SUPPLEMENT No. 4

FERTILITY REGULATION DURING HUMAN LACTATION

Proceedings of the Sixth Biomedical Workshop of
the International Planned Parenthood Federation

Edited by **A.S. Parkes, A.M. Thomson, M. Potts**
and **M.A. Herbertson**



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HUMAN LACTATION

This volume records the proceedings of the Sixth IPPF Workshop, chaired by Professor Angus M. Thomson, and is concerned with both the natural and the artificial regulation of fertility during human lactation. Discussions were a major feature of the meeting and edited reports of them are incorporated as integral parts of the papers.

In opening the Workshop, Sir Alan Parkes emphasized the importance of the subject for the welfare of mother and child and for the control of population growth. Throughout the meeting there were constant references to the importance of an adequate birth interval and to the fact that, after the first month or two, lactation does not ensure infertility, although on the whole the interval between giving birth and becoming pregnant again is much longer in lactating than in non-lactating women.

The increasing trend towards bottle feeding in developing countries was deplored on the grounds that the desirable properties of human milk could not be entirely imitated, that the hygienic conditions necessary for bottle feeding were often lacking and that in the absence of contraceptive measures it shortened the birth interval. A whole session was devoted to considering the effects of steroid contraception during lactation, especially the possibility of the substances appearing in the milk and thereby passing to the child. The last session was devoted to a general discussion of problems and prospects which had arisen during the meeting and included effects of non-steroid methods of contraception during lactation, the role of industry in providing milk substitutes, professional attitudes to breast-feeding, demographic aspects and research needs.

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INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD
FEDERATION

FERTILITY REGULATION
DURING
HUMAN LACTATION

*Proceedings of the Sixth IPPF Biomedical Workshop, held in London,
23rd and 24th November 1976*

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EDITORIAL NOTE

This volume records the proceedings of the Sixth Workshop organized by the International Planned Parenthood Federation and held at the Ciba Foundation on November 23rd and 24th 1976.

The 1976 Workshop was the first in a projected trilogy dealing with fertility regulation during special phases of the reproductive life cycle. The second, to be held in November 1977, will deal with the adolescent period and the third, scheduled for 1978, with the menopause and climacteric. The proceedings of the second and third Workshops will also be published as supplements to *Journal of Biosocial Science*.

The editors acknowledge gratefully the assistance of Miss Jane Cole, of the IPPF Central Office, and Mrs D. E. King, Executive Secretary of JBS, in assembling the material for publication.

Fertility regulation during human lactation

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
Participants	vi
Opening of Workshop. ALAN S. PARKES & ANGUS M. THOMSON	1
Lactational infertility	
Physiology of lactation. A. S. MCNEILLY	5
Neuroendocrine control of lactational infertility. JOHN E. TYSON	23
The chance of conception during lactation. J. K. VAN GINNEKEN	41
Breast-feeding	
Social and behavioural aspects of breast-feeding. M. CARBALLO	57
Biosocial advantages of an adequate birth interval. D. MORLEY	69
WHO Collaborative studies on breastfeeding. M. CARBALLO	83
Lactation and contraception	
Interactions of contraception and breast-feeding in developing countries. W. H. MOSLEY, T. OSTERIA & S. L. HUFFMAN	93
Studies on lactation and contraception in WHO's research programme. R. M. BERNARD	113
Steroid contraception during lactation	
Effect of oral contraceptives on the production and composition of human milk. A. N. GUPTA, V. S. MATHUR & S. K. GARG	123
Effects of some progestational steroids on lactation. M. H. H. BADRAOUI, G. FAWZI & F. HEFNAWI	135
Side effects of steroid contraception. J. J. GELLÉN	149
Appearance of contraceptive steroids in human milk: effects on the child. J. K. HARFOUCHE	165
Problems and prospects	
Do non-steroidal methods of contraception affect lactation? ANGUS M. THOMSON	185
Baby foods—a role for industry? D. MORLEY	189
Professional attitudes to breast-feeding. URSULA LIEBRICH	191
Demographic considerations. R. H. GRAY	195
Research requirements. MALCOLM POTTS	199
Index of contributors	209
Index of subjects	209