

**A-09 : PROLACTIN RESPONSE TO SUCKLING IN A GROUP  
OF LACTATING WOMEN**

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Although prolactin is known to be elevated during lactation, prolactin response to suckling in Sri Lankan women has not been studied. In this study the distribution of basal and suckling stimulated prolactin concentrations and their relation to suckling frequency were examined in a group of lactating women (N = 58) at 4-6 weeks post partum.

Basal and suckling stimulated prolactin concentrations were measured at 120 min and 30 min after a breast feed respectively between 14.00 and 16.00 h. Basal, stimulated and increment of prolactin concentrations did not follow a normal distribution. Basal prolactin concentrations showed significant positive correlations to stimulated prolactin and to increment of prolactin when expressed as a percentage rise of basal prolactin (P). Number of night breast feeds showed a significant (P) positive correlation to basal and stimulated prolactin concentrations but not to increment of prolactin, while total number of breast feeds/24h and day time breast feeds failed to show any significant correlations to basal, stimulated or increment of prolactin. A rise in suckling frequency above 6- 8/24h did not significantly increase basal, stimulated or increment of prolactin concentrations.

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