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Short Cases: Infant Feeding

INTRODUCTION

Infant feeding advice is usually given by Health Visitors, and it is possible that GPs and other members of the team can become deskilled in this area. They may be asked to sign prescriptions for Infant Gaviscon, or specialised baby milks, without sufficient knowledge of the clinical topic.

Parents find both bottle-feeding and breast-feeding problems very stressful, and babies with colic and/or vomiting are the source of a lot of parental anxiety.

Infants are often referred to Paediatrics after several changes of milk formula in Primary Care. Parents can become confused about the differing advice they receive, and what (if any) rationale there is for this advice.

This module covers the common problems connected with infant feeding, and has information on the increasing number of different milk formulas available. There was not space in the module to deal with breastfeeding in detail, but breast-feeding problems are discussed.

This module was extensively checked by a Dietician, and an “expert reviewer” - a Consultant Paediatrician with a particular interest in feeding problems. Their comments are denoted throughout using square brackets [].