



Human Milk Bank Project at the Virgen de la Arrixaca Clinical University Hospital. "An experience to reflect and act"



+Salud, +Seguridad, +Calidad, + Medio Ambiente

Banco de Leche Materna de la Región de Murcia

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Our Unit (PEHSU), location



Pediatric Environmental Health Speciality Unit (PEHSU)



It is a clinical unit located in the **Pediatrics Service** of the Virgen de la Arrixaca University Hospital





Our Unit (PEHSU), definition



Pediatric Environmental Health Speciality Unit (PEHSU)

It is a clinical unit where Pediatricians and nurses with experience in Pediatric Environmental Health **COOPERATE** with:

- <u>other health professionals (other specialized and primary care areas of pediatrics, residents, doctors family, obstetricians, toxicologists, occupational doctors, university nursing graduates, pathologists ...)</u>
- <u>other areas</u> (biologists, engineers, architects, chemists, environmental health technicians, specialists in Environmental Sciences applied to health ...)

We work to recognize , evaluate and manage diseases and risks environmentally related to children, as well as provide education, training and research in Pediatric Environmental Health

Ortega García, J.A., et al., Paediatric environmental health speciality units in Europe: Integrating a missing element into medical care Int. J. Hyg. Environ. Health (2007), doi:10.1016/j.ijheh.2007.07.008







- PEHSU collaborates with Health Care without Harm since 2001
- Previous work:
 - Follow up study Environment and Breastfeeding (several publications)
 - Alternatives to the use of plastics and phthalates in pediatric services (2002)
 - Collaboration with Hcwh-Europe (2004); Identification of phthalates in plastics
 - Sustainable hospitals (published since 2001)
 - Undergraduate and postgraduate training
- For 10 years we have been delivering at the time of discharge in maternity 40.000 informative letters on how to store breast milk and infant food using glass instead of plastic

http://pehsu.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/almacenamiento_LM.pdf





Breastfeeding as an ecosystem . Towards free plastic milk bank under an organic criteria

The Milk Bank will be implemented in our hospital in September following PESHU's demand:

- Selecting Glass containers
- Promoting organic criteria to breastfeeding donor

Getting glass containers in front plastic containers wasn't easy

La Arrixaca albergará un banco de leche materna para prematuros



La neonatóloga Ana García seleccionando, esta semana, varios recipientes de leche donada en el Santa Lucía. El hospital comenzó en 2015 un programa para recoger donaciones y enviarlas al banco del Virgen de las Nieves, en Granada. / ANTONIO GIL / AGM







1. Special vulnerability of the premature

a) Higher metabolic requirement per kg of weightb) Immaturity of detoxification and defense systemsc) They don't vote or make decisionsd) Limited diet (only breastfeeding)









1. Special vulnerability of the premature

e) Transgenerational 'from mothers to children'

	Cord blood serum (ng/ml) n=10		Meconium (ng/g) n = 30		Meconium/TOC (ng/ml)
	Mean	SD (range)	Mean	SD (range)	Mean
НСВ	0.00	0.000 (0.00-0.00)	1.39	1.30 (0.00-4.18)	0.028
β-HCH	0.07	0.083 (0.00-0.21)	0.40	0.36 (0.00-1.02)	0.008
PCB 28	0.00	0.000 (0.00-0.00)	0.06	0.08 (0.00-0.21)	0.001
pp'DDE	0.31	0.221 (0.08-0.73)	7.19	7.00 (0.61-38.66)	0.140
PCB 118	0.00	0.013 (0.00-0.04)	0.05	0.10 (0.00-0.51)	0.001
PCB 153	0.01	0.029 (0.00-0.092)	0.72	0.72 (0.00-1.48)	0.013
pp'DDT	0.01	0.027 (0.00-0.07)	0.18	0.49 (0.00-1.57)	0.003
PCB 138	0.01	0.024 (0.00-0.07)	0.44	0.47 (0.07-1.41)	0.008
PCB 180	0.00	0.000 (0.00-0.00)	0.38	0.38 (0.00-1.04)	0.006

Levels of p,p9-DDE in meconium were detected and quantifiable in 100% of the samples, and levels of b-HCH, PCBs, DDT, and HCB in 90%, 90%, 80%, and 80%, respectively.

Ortega García et al. Meconium and neurotoxicants: searching for a prenatal exposure timing. Arch Dis Child 2006;91:642–646.







2. Pre-use bans on infants from other plastics

The use of plastics with **bisphenol A and phthalates** for the storage systems of children's food has been banned

The transfer of phthalates in packaged foods, depends on numerous factors, especially :

- fat-rich foods
- processes in which the product needs to be heated











3. Chemical migration in plastic containers of polypropylene (PP) to the infant feeding

The plastics industry is an oil-derived one.

Chemical migration: thousands of chemicals derived from plastics containers

That is a preventable health risk , especially in a particularly vulnerable group with viable alternatives

Some references:

- Hahladakis JN, Velis CA, Weber R, Iacovidou E, Purnell P. An overview of chemical additives present in plastics: Migration, release, fate and environmental impact during their use, disposal and recycling. J Hazard Mater. 2018;344:179-199.

- Groh KJ, Backhaus T, Carney-Almroth B, Geueke B, Inostroza PA, Lennquist A, Leslie HA, Maffini M, Slunge D, Trasande L, Warhurst AM, Muncke J. Overview of known plastic packaging-associated chemicals and their hazards. Sci Total Environ. 2019;651(Pt 2):3253-3268.

- Simoneau C, Van den Eede L, Valzacchi S. Identification and quantification of the migration of chemicals from plastic baby bottles used as substitutes for polycarbonate. Food Addit Contam Part A Chem Anal Control Expo Risk Assess. 2012;29:469-80.









4. Plastics are bioaccumulative substances and persistent contaminants

- Not biodegradable and persistent
- PET (polyethylene terephthalate) and PP (polypropylene) are the most of those used in pediatrics
- Generally their degradation consists of the splitting into smaller polymers,
 polluting the different ecosystems microplastic pollution

microplastics pollute landfills and oceans



Reference:

J. Nicholson, The Chemistry of Polymers The Royal Society of Chemistry, Cambridge (2006)







5. Single-use plastics. Increase waste

Most of plastics end up in landfill or incineration \longrightarrow toxic emissions and health efects

The global recycling rate of plastics of consumers ranges only from 1-10%.

PLASTICS GENERATE AND STIMULATE THE TRASH CULTURE



Some references:

- Li CT, Zhuang HK, Hsieh LT, Lee WJ, Tsao MC. PAH emission from the incineration of three plastic wastes. Environ Int. 2001;27:61-7.

⁻ Matias ÁA, Lima MS, Pereira J, Pereira P, Barros R, Coelho JFJ, Serra AC. Use of recycled polypropylene/poly(ethylene terephthalate) blends to manufacture water pipes: An industrial scale study. Waste Manag. 2020;101:250-258.







6. Glass the best alternative

- Glass is being used in other milk banks with security
- Plastic changes the taste and smell of food
- Absence of migration risks
- 100 % Reusable
- Local economy (social entrepreneurship)







7. Committed to our environmental and breastfeeding policy





Introducing organic feeding criteria and not allowing the use of plastic containers







The market to acquire this products is **floaded of plastic**



Only 2 of the 15 milk banks in Spain use glass containers (in both cases they are reused)

The process that limits the use of glass containers is pasteurization



Constraints



There are 3 manufacturers of equipment for milk banks in the European market



Two uses **immersion in water (HOLDER)** is the reference method. Plastic or glass can be used. Trash culture pushes selection into plastic.

New methods emerge, dry method (direct heat contact transfer) the usage was designed only for plastic containers initially.





Market evolves

The journey has not been easy but finally the **market is** attending a global requirement.

Redesign of the pasteurization equipment (dry method) for usage of **glass containers** with identical microbiological guarantees as those associated with the plastic containers







Breastfeeding as ecosystem

We want a toxic-free milk, more healthy : Organic The criteria created ad hoc that we include are:

- Non-smokers or mothers exposed to legal and illegal drugs
- Review occupational and hobbies exposures of breastfeeding chemical risk
- Biomonitoring of environmental pollutants (metals and organic components)
- Avoid usage of pesticides and other chemicals at home previous days
- Controlling drug and parapharmacy exposure
- Basic food questionnaire

Human milk is a human tissue, it is not considered in the food regulations.

Aligned with the strategy "From farm to fork" and Environmental health and breastfeeding committees of the Spanish pediatrics association, WORKING TOGETHER









- 1º.- A safer and organic milk bank (towards toxics free)
- 2º.- A sustainable milk bank
- **3º.-** A process in **accordance with our environment policy** and our breastfeeding policy







Thank you for your attention

