

Speed Of Breast Milk Expulsion In Postpartum Mothers With Application Of Massage Corset

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ABSTRACT

Postpartum mothers often experience difficulty in breastfeeding due to lack of milk production. Furthermore, to speed up the expulsion and production of breast milk, back and oxytocin massage, as well as breast care methods, are used. The implementation requires the assistance of health workers, families, special skills, and time. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the speed of milk expulsion using a massage corset and a microcontroller with a sample of 40 people. A quasi-experiment with a post-test-only control design was used, and the variables were the postpartum massage (manual) and the massage corset group. The experiment was conducted twice daily for 4 days in a row, and both groups were controlled when milk expulsion occurred. The Independent T-Test showed a difference in the speed of breast milk expulsion where the massage corset group was faster at 3.67 hours. Therefore, this method can be applied in accelerating the expulsion of breast milk in postpartum mothers.

Keywords: Massage, Postpartum, Massage Corset, Breast Milk

BACKGROUND

Exclusive breastfeeding is one of the unachieved government programs due to different problems such as lack of breast milk, specifically in the early post-natal period. Formula milk is administered to babies since breast milk production occurs 3-4 days after postpartum. The speed of milk expulsion and production is influenced by many factors such as discomfort, fatigue, anxiety, and pain to inhibit the release of the oxytocin and prolactin hormones.^{1,2,3,4}

Oxytocin and prolactin hormones play a very important role in the speed of milk production in postpartum mothers, and the breastfeeding process is conducted in the early post-natal period. However, mothers are often constrained in early breastfeeding because the production is less or absent on the first day after delivery.¹

WHO recommends that all babies born can be exclusively breastfed for 6 months while the coverage is still very low at 39.9%. Based on the health profile for South Sulawesi, breastfeeding up to 0-5 months and 6 months was 55.0% and 38.5%, respectively, and these values are far from the national target of 80%.⁵

The initial interviews at 2 Independent Practice Midwives (BPM) in Bone Regency, namely BPM Hj. Harfiani and BPM Jumiani showed that 40 samples of postpartum mothers experienced discomfort and fatigue. In addition, milk expulsion that occurred <12 hours, >12-24 hours, 24-48 hours, and >48 hours were found in 3 people (7.5%), 6 people (15%), 12 people (30%), and 19 people (40%), respectively. Mothers do not practice early weaning and exclusive breastfeeding because of Impaired milk expulsion (1). The production and expulsion of breast milk can be accelerated through back massage, oxytocin massage, breast massage, and breast care. However, several difficulties are often experienced since these methods cannot be routinely conducted because of the limitations in terms of skills, time, and the scope of work. ^{6,7,8,9,10}

Based on the phenomenon above, this study aims to design a corset with the application of back and oxytocin massages that can be used without the assistance of health workers. Practically, this corset is efficient and can be used by postpartum mothers while breastfeeding babies or conducting other household tasks or activities. It accelerates the production of breast milk and supports government programs to achieve exclusive breastfeeding for babies.

METHODS

An experimental method with a clear design was used to measure the rate of milk production in both groups after intervention (post-test only control design). The study was conducted at 3 health care centers including Watampone Public Health Center, BPM Hj. Harfiani, and BPM Jumiani from May 17 to July 17. Furthermore, a total of 40 samples were obtained by the accidental sampling method. The study was conducted by applying a corset designed using a microcontroller to massage the postpartum mother's back. A total of 20 samples were used for the massage corset while the remaining 20 were used for postpartum massage. The massage was conducted twice daily for 4 consecutive days at 07:00 am and 02:00 pm with a duration of 10-15 minutes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

Table 1. Characteristics of Postpartum Mothers in the Massage Corset Group (Tools) and the Postpartum Massage Group (Manual)

Characteristics	Postpartum Massage		Massage Corset		p (Value)
	f	%	f	%	

Age	20-35 years old	16	80	12	60	0,16
	>35 and <20 years old	4	20	8	40	
Education	High	8	40	5	25	0.31
	Low	12	60	15	75	
Occupation	Employed	3	15	5	25	0.42
	Unemployed	17	85	15	75	
Body Mass Index (BMI)	Normal	20	100	20	100	-
	Abnormal	0	0	0	0	
Early Breastfeeding Initiation (EBI)	Successful EBI	12	60	15	75	0.31
	Failed EBI	8	25	5	25	
Parity	Primipara	4	20	3	15	0.67
	Multipara	16	80	17	85	
Postpartum blues	Yes	0	0	0	0	-
	No	20	100	20	100	
Drugs consumed	Consuming drugs	0	0	0	0	-
	Not consuming drugs	20	100	20	100	
Total		20	100	20	100	

Chi-Square Test

Source: Primary Data, processed in 2021

Table 1 showed that 70% from the samples were aged 20-35 years with a p-value of 0.16. Meanwhile, 67.5% had low education with a p-value of 0.31, 80% were unemployed with a p-value of 0.42, 67.5% had successful EBI with a p-value of 0.31, and 82.5% were multipara with a p-value of 0.67. The characteristics of respondents such as age, education, occupation, BMI, and parity had a p-value greater than (0.05). These characteristics do not affect the treatment given to the postpartum

(manual) and corset massage corset groups. Therefore, there is no inequality value between the two groups because of the similar samples.

Table 2. Frequency Distribution for the Speed of Breast Milk Expulsion in the Massage Corset Group (Tool) and Postpartum Massage Group (Manual)

POSTPARTUM MASSAGE	The Speed of Breast Milk Expulsion			
	FAST		SLOW	
	F	%	F	%
Postpartum Massage (Manual)	15	75	5	25
Massage corset	17	85	3	15
TOTAL	32	80	8	20

Source: Primary Data, processed in 2021

Table 2 showed that fast and slow milk expulsion was experienced by 15 (75%) and 5 (25%) people from the postpartum massage group. Meanwhile, 17 (85%) and 3 (15%) people experienced fast and slow milk expulsion in the massage corset group respectively. Therefore, the majority of samples in the massage corset group experienced fast milk expulsion.

Table 3. The Effect of Massage Corset (Tool) and Postpartum Massage (Manual) on the Speed of Breast Milk Expulsion

Group	Breast Milk Expulsion (Hours)			P (value)
	N	Mean	±SD	
Postpartum massage (manual)	20	6.23	±6.53	0.03
Massage corset	20	2.56	±3.23	

Independent T-Test

Source: Primary Data, processed in 2021

Table 3 showed that the independent T-Test obtains P (value) = 0.03 (<0.05) which means that the massage corset affects milk expulsion with the faster speed by 2.56 hours ± SD 3.23 compared to the postpartum massage group (manual) at 6.23 hours ±SD 6.53.

Results Analysis

The massage corset designed using a microcontroller produces vibrations on the vibrator and provides a comfortable feeling such as being massaged in postpartum mothers. The corset applied

affected the speed of milk expulsion, and the independent T-Test obtains $p = 0.03$ (<0.05), therefore, there is a significant effect between the two groups. The postpartum massage group had a longer milk expulsion of 6.23 hours \pm SD 6.53 than the massage corset group at 2.56 hours \pm SD 3.23. This is relevant to (Kasmiati 2020) which states that unmassaged and massaged postpartum mothers have a milk expulsion speed of 29.33 hours and 11.68 hours respectively. A study conducted by Ummah (2014) also supported this idea, where the average milk expulsion in the control and intervention groups was 8.93 hours and 6.21 hours, respectively. Furthermore, the results of Kasmiati and Ummah are slower because the samples consist of more primiparas than multiparas. This study has more multiparous samples than primiparas with a percentage of 82.5%. The multiparous mothers are experienced and have knowledge in breastfeeding.^{5,11}

The difference in the speed of milk expulsion for the two groups was 3.67 hours since there was no significant difference in time even though the massage corset group was faster. Back and oxytocin massages were conducted through the corset to generate vibration with a microcontroller for 10-15 minutes. During massage, the sensory nerves of the skin were activated in response to vibrations, pressure, and warm temperatures. Furthermore, peripheral nerves were stimulated to increase impulses, reduce pain, increase flexibility of muscles and provide a therapeutic effect.^{12,13,14,15}

Early Breastfeeding Initiation (EBI) is one of the factors related to the speed of breast milk expulsion. However, this study obtains $p = 0.31$ (> 0.05) which means that there is no relationship between EBI and the speed of breast milk expulsion in the massage corset and postpartum massage groups.²

This study is also relevant to Wulandari et al (2014), where the effect of oxytocin massage on production of cholesterol was stated. In the control and intervention groups, the production lasted for 8.16 hours and 5.21 hours respectively.⁶

Postpartum massage increases the conduction of nerve impulses through the peripheral nerves. It increases muscle flexibility and provides a sense of comfort and relaxation. In addition, it increases the release of prolactin and oxytocin hormones as well as stimulates mammary nerves to secrete milk. Mothers that have experienced massage corsets will feel more relaxed because they can take a more comfortable position without the assistance of health workers or husbands.^{16,17,18,19,20,21,22}

The application of back and oxytocin massages provides a significant difference, therefore, this corset is a very good alternative to use. This method can be applied without specific skills because postpartum mothers only need to press the on and off buttons.^{18,19}

The respondents experienced smooth milk expulsion after being given a massage corset,

and the application relieves the fatigue felt throughout the body after giving birth. Mothers with manual postpartum massage did not experience any feeling while those with massage corsets felt more comfortable and relaxed.

CONCLUSION

It is reasonable to conclude that there is an effect of postpartum massage and massage corset on the speed of milk expulsion in postpartum mothers. Furthermore, it is expected that postpartum massage can be a manual intervention in accelerating milk expulsion. The massage corset, as the present-day solution should be developed and used independently.

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