Supplementary Material

# Breast milk cytokines and early growth in Gambian infants

Anja Saso1, Oleg Blyuss2,3, Daniel Munblit1,4, Amadou Faal5, Sophie.E. Moore5,6 and Kirsty Le Doare7,8,9\*.  
1Department of Paediatrics, Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom.  
2Wolfson Institute of Preventative Medicine, Centre for Cancer Prevention, Queen Mary University of London, London, United Kingdom.  
3Institute for Women’s Health, Department of Women’s Cancer, University College London, London, United Kingdom.  
4Department of Paediatrics, I.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University, Moscow, Russia.  
5MRC Unit The Gambia at the London School of Hygiene and TropicalMedicine, London, United Kingdom.  
6Department of Women and Children's Health, King’s College London, London, United Kingdom.  
7Centre for International Child Health, Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom.  
8West Africa Global Health Alliance, The Gambia  
9Paediatric Infectious Diseases Research Group, St George’s University of London, London, United Kingdom.

**\* Correspondence: Dr Sophie Moore**

**[Sophie.Moore@nhs.net](mailto:Sophie.Moore@nhs.net)**

**Supplementary Tables**

**Table 1: Lowest Limit of Detection (LLOD) for cytokines measured using Meso Scale methods outlined in this study (Data from Meso Scale Discovery, 2014)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Lowest Limit of Detection (pg/ml)** |
| **IL-1β** | 0.04 |
| **IL-2** | 0.09 |
| **IL-4** | 0.02 |
| **IL-6** | 0.06 |
| **IL-10** | 0.03 |
| **IL-12p70** | 0.11 |
| **IL-13** | 0.24 |
| **TNFα** | 0.04 |
| **IFNγ** | 0.2 |
| **IGF-1** | 26.8 |
| **TGF2** | 265.0 |

**Table 2: Median of cytokine concentrations in colostrum and mature breast milk**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cytokine** | **Colostrum**  **median**  **(IQR)** | **Total samples** | **Number of samples detectable (%)\*** | **BM**  **median**  **(IQR)** | **Total samples** | **Number of samples detectable (%)** | **p-value\*\*** | **p-value for proportion of detectable samples\*\*\*** |
| **TNFα** | 21.32  (7.27-104.59) | 83 | 83 (100) | 1.04  (0.55-2.49) | 90 | 86 (96) | p<0.001 | 0.122 |
| **IFNγ** | 13.4  (5.87-29.93) | 83 | 82 (99) | 2.5  (0.83-5.96) | 90 | 82 (91) | p<0.001 | 0.036 |
| **IL10** | 3.46  (1.11-12.47) | 83 | 82 (99) | 0.05  (0.02-0.23) | 90 | 57 (63) | p<0.001 | p<0.001 |
| **IL12** | 0.85  (0.21-3.45) | 83 | 68 (82) | 0.12  (0.06-0.28) | 90 | 48 (53) | p<0.001 | p<0.001 |
| **IL13** | 7.77  (1.82-24.67) | 83 | 78 (94) | 1.53  (0.59-2.94) | 90 | 74 (82) | p<0.001 | 0.02 |
| **IL1β** | 6  (2.2-19.92) | 83 | 83 (100) | 0.4  (0.06-1.89) | 90 | 71 (79) | p<0.001 | p<0.001 |
| **IL2** | 0.84  (0.35-2.70) | 83 | 78 (94) | 0.11  (0.04-0.48) | 90 | 52 (58) | p<0.001 | p<0.001 |
| **IL4** | 0.16  (0.05-0.57) | 83 | 72 (87) | 0.01  (0.01-0.06) | 90 | 40 (44) | p<0.001 | p<0.001 |
| **IL6** | 25.91  (8.43-73.08) | 83 | 83 (100) | 0.91  (0.37-3.73) | 90 | 85 (94) | p<0.001 | 0.06 |
| **TGFβ2** | 5116.49  (3464.15-8156.59 | 42 | 42 (100) | 7983.2  (3842.67-19569.42) | 46 | 46 (100) | 0.11 | 1 |
| **IGF1**\*\*\*\* | 13.4  (13.4-13.4) | 70 | 15 (21) | 13.4  (13.4-13.4) | 90 | 10 (11) | 0.06 | 0.083 |

All measurements are in pg/ml (rounded to 2 decimal places)

\*Samples were termed as detectable if concentrations measured were above the lower limits of detection shown in Table 1.

\*\*Wilcoxon rank sum test comparing the mean concentration of each cytokine in colostrum and breast milk

\*\*\* Fisher’s exact two-sided test comparing proportions of detectable samples in colostrum and breast milk

\*\*\*\*Median and IQR of IGF1 concentrations in colostrum and BM samples coincide because the levels were below the assay limit of detection in >75% of subjects. Given this low detection rate, data on IGF1 has been removed from further statistical analysis.

Abbreviations: BM, breast milk; SD, standard deviation; IQR, interquartile range

**Table 3: Association between cytokine concentrations in colostrum and breast milk**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Cytokine** | ***r\**** | ***p*-value** |
| **TNFα** | 0.07 | 0.57 |
| **IFNγ** | 0.06 | 0.61 |
| **IL10** | 0.14 | 0.21 |
| **IL12** | 0.26 | 0.02 |
| **IL13** | 0.04 | 0.73 |
| **IL1β** | 0.10 | 0.39 |
| **IL2** | -0.08 | 0.46 |
| **IL4** | 0.14 | 0.21 |
| **IL6** | 0.14 | 0.22 |
| **IGF1** | 0.21 | 0.08 |
| **TGFβ2** | 0.11 | 0.50 |

All values are rounded to 2 decimal places

\**r* = Spearman rank correlation co-efficient