

**Abstract:**

The bachelor thesis focuses on the physiological prerequisites of breastfeeding in premature newborns. Breastfeeding premature infants presents significant challenges due to physiological, neurological, and developmental limitations that affect their ability to suck, swallow and breathe effectively. My main aim was to determine when infants admitted to the intensive care unit and intermediate care unit reach breastfeeding milestones. Important milestones observed include first nonnutritive sucking, first nutritive sucking and achieving full oral intake. I also investigated the type of nutrition with which infants are discharged from hospital.

My thesis was divided into theoretical and practical parts. In the theoretical part I discuss the importance of breast milk and breastfeeding for premature infants, the development of sucking, the development of swallowing, and the development of breathing. I also address the coordination of sucking, swallowing and breathing. I also address the transition from tube feeding to oral nutrition. I described the work of a lactation consultant.

In the practical part I have processed data of 26 hospitalized preterm infants. These infants achieved on average the first nonnutritive suck at 31+4 GA (range of values 30+0 to 33+5). The infants managed the first nutritive suck at 34+0 GA (range of values 31+6 to 38+4). Full oral intake was on average at 38+0 GA (values range 35+0 to 48+5)

**Key words:** preterm newborn, breastfeeding, breast milk, nutrition, suck – swallow – respiration