

Addressing Nutritional Risks for Premature Infants: Health Complications Have Costs

Very low birth weight (VLBW) premature infants spend an average of 57.5 days¹ in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). The earlier a baby is born, the more severe the nutritional risks and health problems can be.

An exclusive human milk diet (EHMD) can increase survival² and reduce the overall cost of care for premature infants weighing ≤ 1250 g at birth.³ With Prolacta's products as part of an EHMD (Prolacta's EHMD),[†] you can decrease costly complications—such as necrotizing enterocolitis—associated with cow milk-based products.⁴

Costly Health Complications

VLBW premature infants are at risk for morbidities, such as:

Complication	Average Costs per Patient*
Bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD)	\$31,565⁵
Late-onset sepsis	\$10,055⁵
Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) requiring surgery	\$35,749⁶
Patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) without surgery	\$49,457⁷
Parenteral nutrition (PN) per day, up to	\$1,436⁸
Medical necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC)	\$74,004³
Surgical NEC	\$198,040³

These values are for illustrative purposes. *Cost calculations will vary by hospital.

The incremental costs of these morbidities and interventions can substantially increase the cost of a NICU hospitalization.

[†]Prolacta's EHMD is achieved when 100% of protein, fat, and carbohydrate are derived from MOM and/or pasteurized donor milk, along with Prolacta's human milk and human milk-based fortifiers, caloric fortifiers, and premature infant formulas.



Premature Infants Are at Greater Risk of Complications

Every year, approximately 52,000 premature infants (1.38% of births) are born weighing less than 1500 g.⁹

DAILY NICU COSTS EXCEED

\$3.5k
PER INFANT

and it is not unusual for costs to top **\$1 million** for a prolonged stay¹⁰

57.5

AVERAGE DAYS

of NICU hospitalization¹

54%

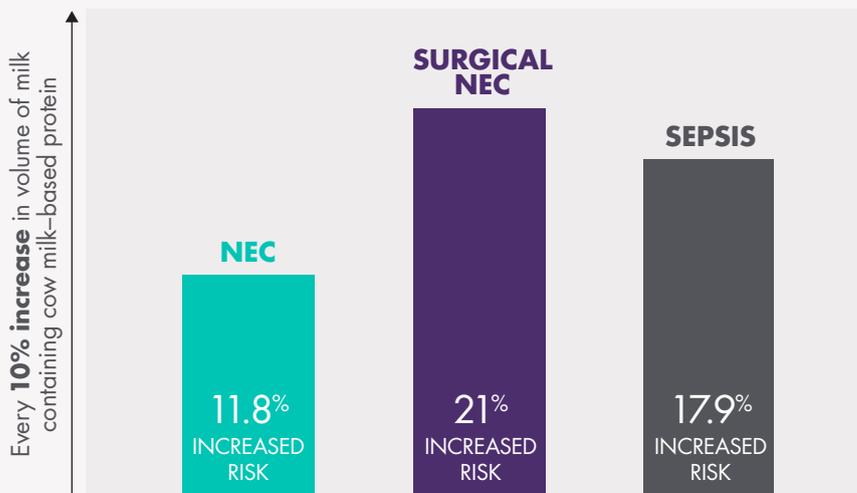
OF INFANT DEATHS

are associated with VLBW complications⁵

A Cow Milk-Based Diet (CMD) Can Increase Medical Complications and Costs

A combined analysis of two randomized clinical studies demonstrates a dose-response relationship that negatively affects patient outcomes. For every **10%** increase in the volume of milk containing cow milk-based protein, the risk of NEC increased by **11.8%**, surgical NEC by **21%**, and sepsis by **17.9%**.²

Dose-Response Relationship[†]



†NEC 11.8% (95% confidence interval, 0.2% to 24.8%)
Surgical NEC 21% (95% confidence interval, 4.2% to 39.6%)
Sepsis 17.9% (95% confidence interval, 8.8% to 27.8%)



Preterm Infants Have Greater Nutritional Needs

Premature infants have significant nutritional requirements including increased calories, protein, vitamins, calcium, and other minerals. Nutrition is vital to their survival, growth, and development. During the last trimester, infants receive vast amounts of essential nutrition through the umbilical cord. Premature infants miss this crucial nutrition, and their dietary needs are greater than what breastmilk alone can supply.

For premature infants weighing less than 1500 g at birth, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends fortifying human milk (mother's own milk [MOM] or pasteurized donor human milk) with protein, minerals, and vitamins to ensure optimal nutrition intake.¹¹

When Addressing the Nutritional Risks for Premature Infants, Only Prolacta Offers a Full Line of Clinically Proven, Human Milk–Based Nutrition



“Human Milk Fortifier” (HMF) is the generic name of a product that aims to increase the nutritional and caloric density of MOM or pasteurized donor human milk to meet the dietary needs of premature babies in the NICU. Some people assume that “Human Milk Fortifier” means the product is made from human milk, which is **not** the case. There are two categories of HMF available for use in NICUs in the United States: one derived from cow’s milk and the other from pasteurized donor human milk. HMF does not reflect which category of fortifier is being used.¹²

Decrease Costly Health Complications and Support Healthy, Long-Term Growth With Prolacta’s EHMD

Prolacta’s EHMD is achieved when 100% of protein, fat, and carbohydrate are derived from MOM and/or pasteurized donor milk, along with Prolacta’s human milk and human milk–based fortifiers, caloric fortifiers, and premature infant formulas.

Prolacta’s EHMD for babies weighing ≤ 1250 g at birth supports adequate growth,¹³ can increase survival,² and can decrease costly complications associated with the intake of cow milk–based products.^{3,4}

Improved survival rates of premature infants have shifted the focus of neonatal care to improving postnatal growth and nutrition and aiming to achieve growth rates that optimize later health outcomes.^{14,15,16}

An EHMD feeding protocol for premature infants weighing < 1500 g with early and rapid advancement of fortification with Prolacta’s products is associated with:



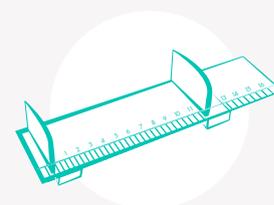
Weight gain exceeding targeted growth standards¹³



Appropriate long-term growth post-discharge and adequate bone mineralization at 18 to 22 months¹⁶



Head circumference gain, reflecting brain growth (13% higher in the EHMD group versus the cow milk–based diet group)¹⁷



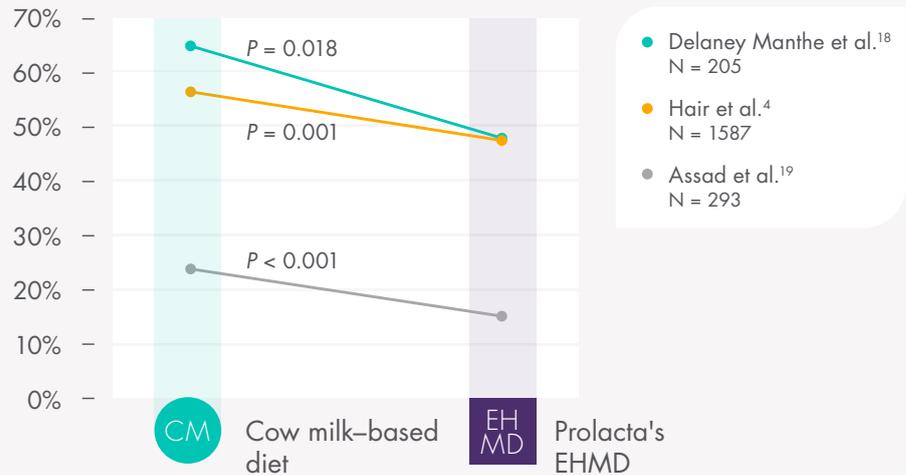
Low rate of extruterine growth restriction¹³

Prolacta's Products Can Help Reduce the Most Severe Complications of Prematurity

Prolacta's EHMD, devoid of cow milk-based products, has been shown to lower mortality and comorbidities in premature infants ≤ 1250 g without compromising growth.^{2,17}

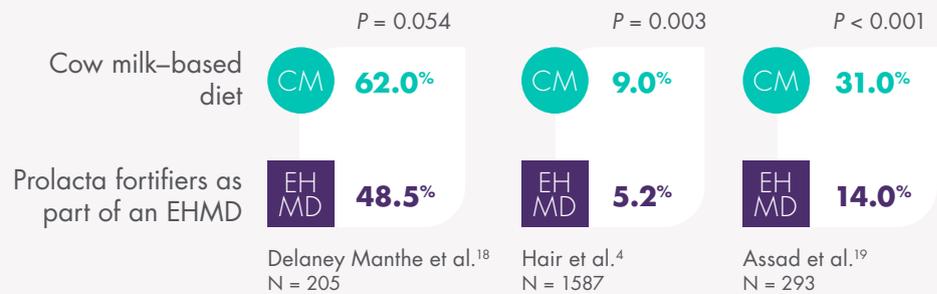
Significant Decreases in BPD Incidence

In three recent studies, the use of Prolacta's fortifiers as part of an EHMD led to **statistically significant decreases in BPD** (weighted average 9.7%) among premature infants.^{4,18,19} Another study revealed that time is of the essence: Early fortification with Prolacta's EHMD led to a 15% reduction in the incidence of BPD, compared with late fortification.²⁰



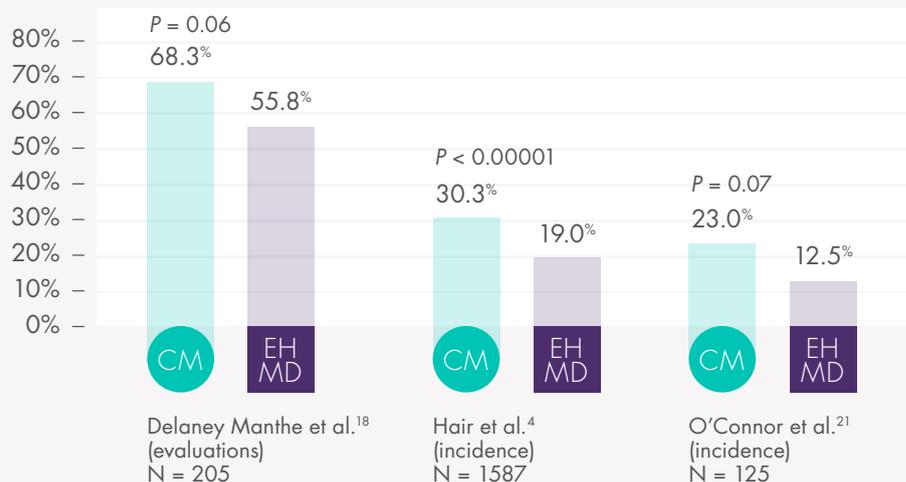
Decreases in ROP Incidence

Three recent studies show a direct correlation between feeding protocols with Prolacta's EHMD and **reduced incidence of ROP**.^{4,18,19}



Decreases in Late-Onset Sepsis Incidence^{4,21} and Evaluations¹⁸

Peer-reviewed research shows the **powerful impact of appropriate nutrition** in curbing the incidence of the complications of prematurity. In recent studies, premature infants fed Prolacta's EHMD were less likely to develop late-onset sepsis.



9
FEWER DAYS
of PN/Total PN²²

Shorter Duration of Parenteral Nutrition for Infants Fed a Human Milk-Based Diet vs Bovine Milk-Based Preterm Formula^{22§}

In extremely premature infants given an EHMD vs preterm formula, there was a significant difference in median parenteral nutrition days: 27 vs 36 days with Prolact+ H²MF[®] human milk fortifiers (human, pasteurized) vs bovine milk-based preterm formula, respectively ($P = 0.04$).^{22§}

§ This multicenter, randomized, controlled trial compared an EHMD with bovine milk-based preterm formula in extremely premature infants.



Prolacta's EHMD Can Reduce Hospital Costs¹⁹

The 2016 Assad et al single-center retrospective study assessed the benefits and costs of Prolacta's EHMD in preterm (≤ 28 weeks) and/or VLBW (≤ 1500 g) infants vs either a combination of MOM and cow milk-based fortifier; a mixed combination diet of MOM, cow milk-based fortifier, and formula; or a formula-only diet.

The beneficial effects of an EHMD in premature infants were:



94%
NEVER HAD FEEDS HELD
of the premature infants fed
an EHMD¹⁹

UP TO
10
FEWER DAYS
to achieve full feeds for
premature infants fed an
EHMD vs CMD¹⁹

4.5
DAY SHORTER LENGTH OF STAY
for premature infants fed
an EHMD vs CMD¹⁹

Potential Average Cost Savings per Premature Infant by Addressing Nutritional Risks With Prolacta's EHMD

4.5 day shorter
length of stay^{19**}
daily NICU cost
× **\$3,500**¹⁰

\$15,750

9 fewer days
of total PN^{22**}
average daily total PN cost
× **\$1,436**⁸

\$12,924

Reduction in the rate
of medical and surgical
NEC and associated
NICU costs^{3**}

\$8,167

**For babies weighing ≤ 1250 g. All values are for illustrative purposes. Cost calculations will vary by hospital.

Long-Term Cost-Effectiveness of Prolacta's EHMD

Morbidities associated with prematurity predispose VLBW infants to long-term complications and increase risk of neurodevelopmental and neurocognitive problems that can add to healthcare system and societal costs.⁵

From a financial perspective, Prolacta's EHMD for preterm infants in the NICU has the potential for cost savings that will span their lifetime and result in healthcare system cost savings over the long term.^{3,23}



Address the Nutritional Risks
for Premature Infants

CHOOSE PROLACTA

Prolacta's human milk-based nutritional products are clinically proven to improve health outcomes² and reduce hospital costs for premature infants in the NICU.^{3,4}

Talk to our experienced Health Economics
team to schedule a Value Analysis.

1.888.776.5228
PROLACTA.COM

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