

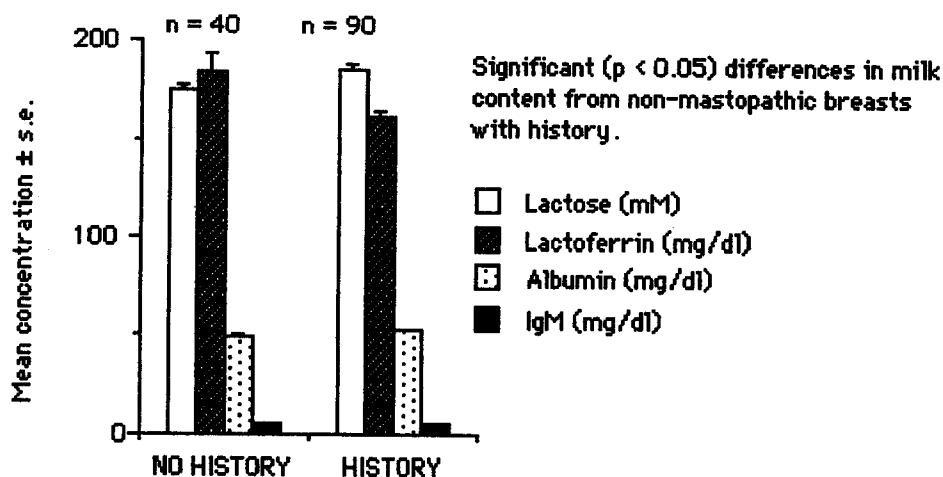
MILK COMPOSITION FROM NON-MASTOPATHIC BREASTS WITH AND WITHOUT A HISTORY OF MASTOPATHY

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Little is known of the long term effects of a history of mastopathy on breast function. Previous studies on mothers with current episodes of mastopathy suggested that it has only a transient effect on the biochemical and immunological (Prentice et al. 1985) composition of milk. As part of a study on the effect of mastopathy on breast function in breastfeeding mothers, the biochemical composition of milk from non-mastopathic breasts with a history of lactational mastopathy was assessed.

Milk was obtained from fully and partially breastfeeding mothers with ($n = 90$) and without ($n = 40$) a history of mastopathy and analysed for lactose, glucose, albumin, IgA, IgM, IgG lactoferrin, pH, Na, K, Ca and P. Reported history included nipple disorders, engorgement, blocked ducts, mastodynia, lumps, abscesses, cysts, and mastitis.

The concentration of milk constituents was significantly ($P < 0.05$) different between mothers with a history of mastopathy and those without. Milk lactose and albumin were higher while, IgM, and lactoferrin were lower in mothers with a history of mastopathy (see figure). There was no effect of partial or full breastfeeding.



The results suggest that mothers with a previous history of mastopathy had lower concentration of the protective proteins, IgM and lactoferrin, in their milk and thus may be more prone to infections than those without history. Thus, the protective capability of milk from breasts with a previous history of mastopathy requires further investigation.

PRENTICE, A., PRENTICE, A.M. and LAMB, W.H. (1985). Trans. Royal Soc. Trop. Med. and Hyg. 79: 90.