Caregiving Feeding Styles in Infancy and Potential Risk of Obesity: The Infant Care and Feeding Project.

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Recent research suggests that, aside from genetic predisposition, behavioral and environmental factors significantly influence infant health outcomes. Investigators at the Infant Care Project are seeking to identify those health risk factors observable in the first two years of life with the long-term goal of advancing understanding of health and improving the well-being of children. The investigators propose that feeding and physical activity patterns established during infancy and early childhood are major determinants of later health. These patterns, in turn, are influenced by such factors as infant, caregiver, and household characteristics; parenting practices; cultural beliefs; and TV viewing habits. While most previous studies have looked at white or middle-class populations, little is known about low-income and minority populations. Therefore, this project examines infant care practices and how they affect infant health among low-income African-American mothers and infants in selected counties in North Carolina.

Junio 21, 2006
11:00 am—1:00 pm
Salón 13 Escuela de Salud Pública

Auspiciado por:
Instituto de Investigación de Servicios de Salud de Puerto Rico

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