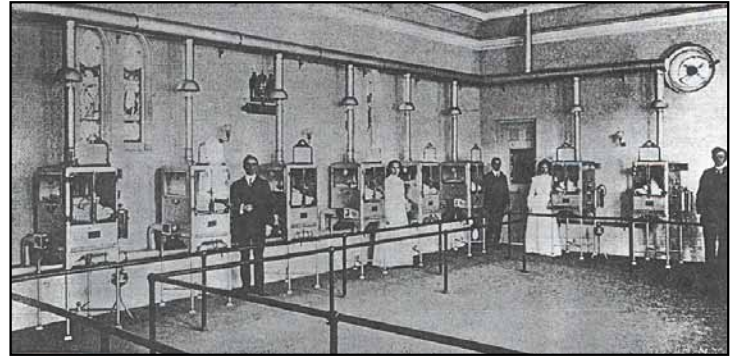


Parental participation in modern neonatal care



Uwe Ewald, Uppsala Sweden

100 years ago



Mothers Separated (infection)



Artificial breastmilk Mothers not necessary



Staff – the primary caregiver



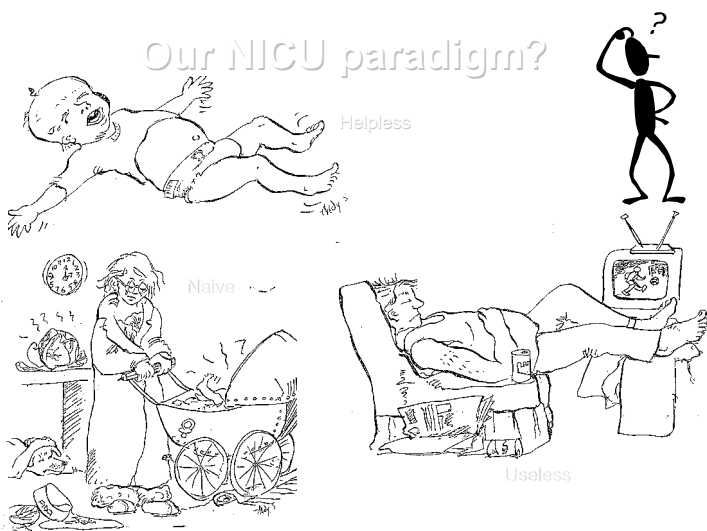
Intensivist



Tehtered by technology?



1976



What should guide neonatal care?

UNICEF convention on the rights of the child:

"The child shall have the right from birth... to know and be cared for by his or her parents." (Article 7)

Separation today

- 10% infants transferred to a NICU
 - (in Sweden 10 000/y)
 - phototherapy, gavage feeding,
- Prolonged hospitalization
- Rooming-in, single family room uncommon
- Visiting allowed, but restrictions common
- Economic concerns
- Constrains - geographical distances

Effects related to separation

- Maternal
 - Insecurity
 - Feeling unimportant
 - Being just a visitor
 - Guilt, shame, lack of control
 - Stress, trauma, anxiety, depression
- Infant
 - Less breastfeeding
 - Perceived vulnerable
 - More emergency visits post discharge
 - Behavioral, emotional problems

Incubator becomes symbol of how dependent they are



Parents - the primary care giver?



Providing childrens emotional, physical, social and developmental needs

Family centered care

- Building partnership with the families
- Change attitudes and culture
- Leadership and organisation
- Develop a supporting environment
- Prospective collection of parent reports

Division of roles

Staff
Medical responsibilities

Parents
Primary caregiver
step by step



Change of roles if e.g.
the infant's condition deteriorates

New staff role educators, guides, supporters



Infant: 29 w, 2 days



15 days

The family's needs

- Being close to each other
- Siblings involved
- Understanding
- Integrity
- Support from staff and the family's social network



- Healing after traumatic experience

Mother's and father's needs

- Give warmth, love and nourishment
- Respond to the infant's needs
- Be close
- Participate in infant's care
- Have influence
- Share all information



The infant's needs

- Care in a familiar environment
- Perceive the parents' presence by all senses (touch, hearing, vision, odour, taste)
- Consistent care by few caregivers
- Contingent response to what he/she communicates

Treatment strategies

- Prevent separation
- Closeness
 - Skin to skin - Kangaroo mother care
 - Rooming-in
 - Breastfeeding
- Empowerment
 - Parents role as primary care givers

Kangaroo Mother Care

- Red thread**
- Prevent/minimize separation
 - Support bonding-attachment
 - Empowerment of parents

Kangaroo mother care⇒ *Safe and efficient!*

- *Developing countries*
 - Prevents hypothermia
 - Reduces nosocomial infections
 - Promotes breastfeeding
- *Industrialized countries*
 - Prevents separation
 - Empowers parents
 - Promotes breastfeeding
 - Reduces stress
 - Less guilt, shame and depressive symptoms

Adaptation of care environment

- Infants need
- Parental participation
- Staff working condition
- Medical technique
- Parents space - privacy
- Design

The parent's chest =
The infant's care space



Participation, but
who feel to be
important for
their baby?



Attachment - more than a finger



Feeding - who knows best?



Early breastfeeding



Phototherapy





Parent- the primary caretaker



Assisted ventilation



Comfortable position



Secure tubing

In control



IMVand knitting



There is a world outside the NICU



Monitoring – machines or a mother?



Carrying



Top



Scarf



Blouse

Siblings area



Planning discharge?



Discharged with oxygen therapy



We can do a lot more than today

