

Table (1) Demographic data of studied groups

Characteristics	Slow group “n=50”	Rapid group “n=50”	p-value
Age at beginning of feeding (days)	4.50±2.87	4.64±3.24	0.820
Sex:			
Male	26(52.0%)	29(58.0%)	0.344
Female	24(48.0%)	21(42.0%)	
Weight on admission “kg”	1.25±0.414	1.28±0.45	0.371
Gestational age “weeks.”	30.80±2.80	32.14±2.22	0.372
Mode of delivery			
Vaginal delivery	16(32.0%)	21(42.0%)	0.285
Cesarean section	34(68.0%)	29(58.0%)	
No of infants fed with:			
Exclusive breast milk	17(34.0%)	14(28.0%)	0.276
Breast milk +formula	23(56.0%)	27(54.0%)	
Formula only	10(20.0%)	9(18.0%)	

Table (2) Feeding outcome of studied groups

Feeding characteristic	Slow group “n=50”	Rapid group “n=50”	p-value
Feeding intolerance	12(24.0%)	14(28.0%)	0.342
Abd. Distension	10(20.0%)	13(26.0%)	0.271
Vomiting	14(28.0%)	11(22.0%)	0.378
Increase gastric aspirate (>50%)	13(26.0%)	16(34.0%)	0.481
Feeding interruption	12(24.0%)	15(30.0%)	0.348
Necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC)	11(22.0%)	7(14.0%)	0.228

Table (3): Clinical outcome of studied groups

Outcome	Slow group	Rapid group	P -value
duration of IV fluid “days”	9.30±2.33	6.56±1.12	0.001**
-Time taken to reach full enteral feed “days”	14.89±3.89	9.18±3.58	0.000***
-Duration of hospital stay “day”	19.37±10.36	17.89±9.58	0.02*
- Regain birth weight “days”	15.46±4.8	12.43±5.32	0.04*

* Significant, ** highly significant

Table (4): Discharge status of studied groups

Item	Slow group	Rapid group	P- value
Discharge weight “gm” Mean ± SD	2040±42.71	2200±34.8	0.02*
Discharge status:			
Died	18(36.0%)	7(14.0%)	0.01*
Alive	32(64.0%)	43(86.0%)	

* Significant