

Introduction early food in infants: Source of malnutrition in developing countries

Egnon K V Kouakou¹, Kouamé G M Bouafou³, Alassane Meite¹, Djetouan J M Kacou¹, Bruno K Koko¹, Gustave Kouame¹, Siaky M Kamara², Zannou Viviane and Séraphin Kati-Coulibaly¹

¹UFR Biosciences-Félix Houphouët-Boigny University, Ivory Coast

²Institute of Anthropological Sciences of Development (ISAD)-University Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Ivory Coast

³Life and Earth Sciences Section, Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS), Abidjan, Ivory Coast

The aim of this study is to evaluate the impact of early introduction of food in infants in Côte d'Ivoire. To this end, a cross-sectional, descriptive and analytical study was carried out in two health centers in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire). In this study, 897 women were interviewed using individual questionnaires and 956 children who received foods other than breast milk were consulted between 2

to 12 months. The data collected concerned the sex of the child, age, quality of food consumed, knowledge and practices of mothers. The results of this study revealed that before the age of six months, 40.06%; 22.48%; 14.33%; 10.04%; 8.15% and 4.91% of infants received respectively traditional weaning meals, industrial weaning meals, mixtures, honey, fruits and vegetables. These studies also showed that 12.97%, 14.64%, 18.30%, 54.07% of these children consumed their first foods other than breast milk respectively at 2; 3; 4 and 5 months. Also, among these children 50.83% were girls and 49.16% were boys. The study also found that less than 50% of women receive information on food diversification. In addition, these results should be supplemented by further studies to better define the scope of action for the promotion of breast milk in Côte d'Ivoire.

kouakouegnonvivien@yahoo.fr