

Milk donation awareness of parents, health workers and lactation consultants in Russia: survey findings

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Introduction. Today, in Russia there is no common practice of using donor milk in hospitals, while abroad it is a common technique of caring for premature and low-weight infants. Currently there is a single donor human milk bank which was opened in November 2014 in Moscow.

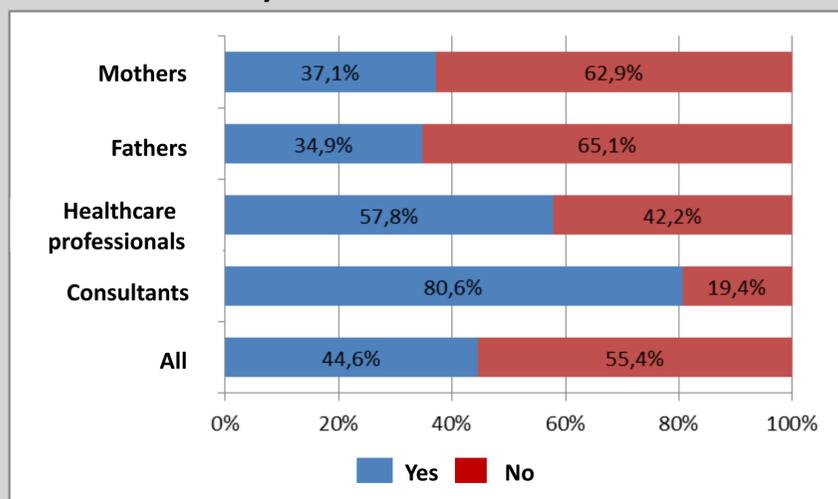
Objectives and study. Our aim was to analyze the public opinion about the benefits and safety of donor milk and the importance of the existence of donor milk banks in Russia.

The study involved 2,332 respondents from 13 medical institutions in 11 cities and towns located in 6 federal districts of the Russian Federation, including 1,134 mothers, 413 fathers, 692 health workers, and 93 lactation consultants.

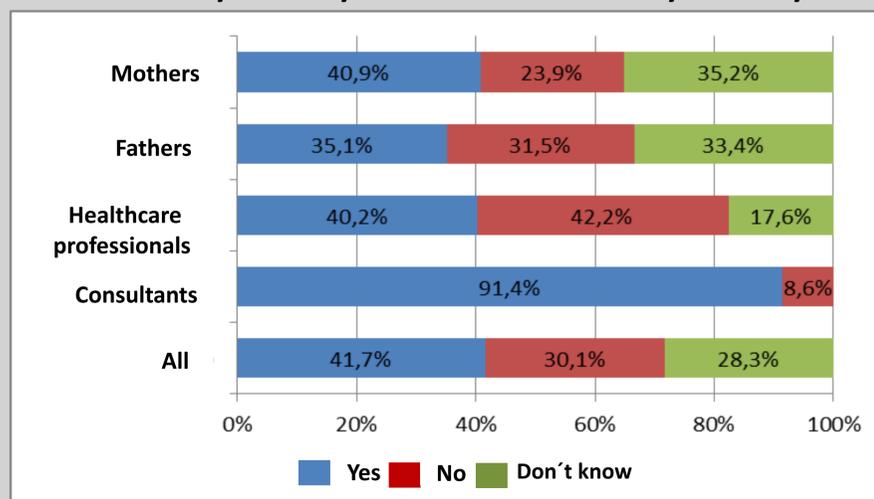
Methods: The method of polling was used in the study. All women were asked to fill in the questionnaire containing 17 questions. To analyze the results, the statistical program SPSS Statistics 19.0 (SPSS Inc., USA) was used.

Results

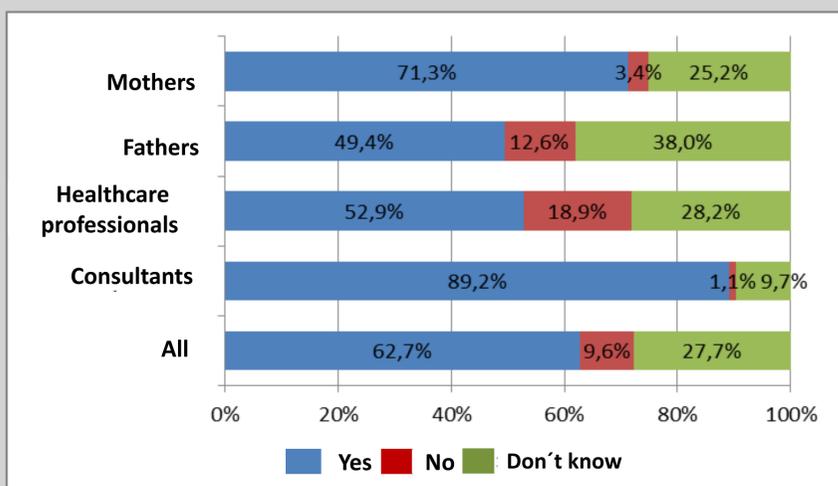
Question: «Have you heard about donor milk bank?»



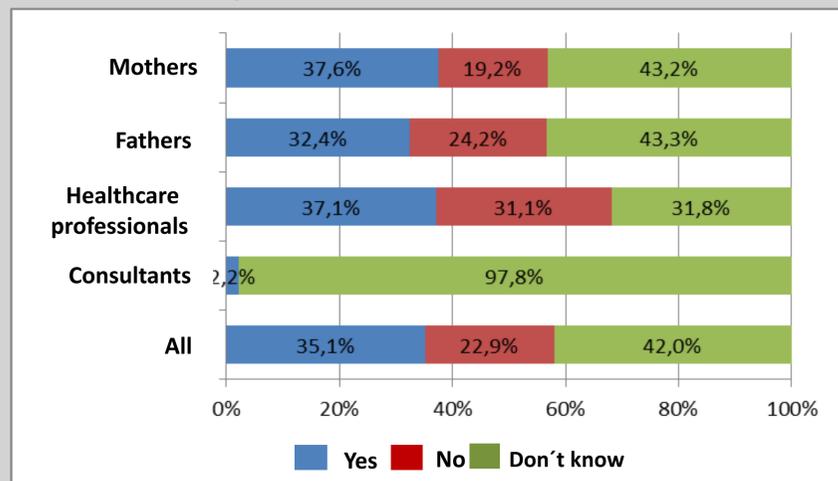
Question «Are you ready to use donor milk for your baby ?»



Question: «Do you consider it is necessary to create the donor milk banks in Russia?»



Question: «Do you consider donor milk is safe?»



Most of the parents and healthcare professionals believe that donor milk is useful in the absence of breast milk.

36.5% parents and 57.8% professionals have heard something about breast milk banks

More than half of the parents and professionals involved in the study believe that it is reasonable to create milk banks.

Only 1/3 of the respondents believe that donor milk is safe.

Only 40% of all respondents would agree to use donor milk for their children

Most of the mothers would agree to become milk donors, and the half of fathers would approve their wives' decision to become donors.

Conclusions

The study has revealed low respondents' awareness of the use and safety of donor milk. However, most of the mothers are willing to become breast milk donors. To promote the donation of breast milk in Russia comprehensive measures that raise public awareness of donor milk should be taken.

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