Abstract:

Milk is more than just food. Containing a wide range of bioactive factors - the list of which is continually growing - milk shapes several aspects of developing infant physiology and behavior. Further, these components of milk are shaped by the environment, filtered through maternal experience. I will discuss ways in which this is manifested in a population of rural West African mothers and infants, with implications for understanding larger-scale patterns of growth and morbidity in developing countries.

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