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A cultural dilemma: Pakistani nursing

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Finding
- There was an increased incidence of gestational diabetes and a decreased incidence of pre-eclampsia in babies of Vietnamese-born women.
- The rates of induction of labor were almost double for Australian women (23.3 percent) compared to Vietnamese women (12.9 percent).
- The birth weight of infants of Vietnamese women was significantly lower at the 10th, 50th, and 90th percentiles compared to infants of Australian women.
- The majority of Vietnamese mothers artificially fed their babies on 326 formula. Their breast anatomies of flat nipples, etc., did not make breast-feeding easy. Also, these mothers, who were planning to return to work within one or two months, viewed artificial-feeding as the most socially desirable practice-the one that offers a baby the best start in life.
- Generally the Vietnamese mothers have a quiet labor and use minimal pain relief and minimal interventions. Due to gestational diabetes and a Western diet high in protein, the Vietnamese babies were proportionally bigger, which may result in perinatal trauma.
- When examining family life, we found Vietnamese and Australian fathers equally appropriate growth charts which will avoid proportional differences in birth weights. However, Australian infants have a higher birth weight than Vietnamese infants in Australia.