

***THE EFFECT OF KANGAROO MOTHER CARE ON BODY
TEMPERATURE STABILITY AND BREASTFEEDING QUALITY
IN LOW BIRTH WEIGHT INFANTS AT RSUD DR. SOEKARDJO
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ABSTRACT

The Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) method is a care technique for Low Birth Weight (LBW) infants that involves skin-to-skin contact between the mother and the baby. KMC is beneficial for maintaining the infant's body temperature stability, strengthening mother–infant bonding, and supporting breastfeeding. This study aimed to determine the effect of KMC on body temperature stability and breastfeeding quality in LBW infants at the Perinatology Ward of RSUD dr. Soekardjo Tasikmalaya. This research employed a one-group pretest–posttest design involving 18 LBW infants who met the inclusion criteria. The KMC intervention was conducted for 60 minutes per session, with body temperature measured using a digital thermometer and breastfeeding quality assessed using the LATCH scoring instrument. The results showed that the average body temperature increased from 36.42°C to 36.83°C, with a mean difference of 0.41°C ($p = 0.000$) based on the Paired t-test. The average LATCH score increased from 6.28 to 8.17, with a mean difference of 1.89 points ($p = 0.000$) based on the Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test. In conclusion, KMC was proven effective in improving body temperature stability and breastfeeding quality in LBW infants.

Keywords: *breastfeeding, body temperature stability, KMC, kangaroo mother care, LBW infants*