

### Correspondence

To the Editors

## COVID-19: transmission and breastfeeding

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COVID-19 is a new emerging respiratory infection caused by SARS-CoV-2, which is a novel coronavirus firstly detected in China<sup>1</sup>. At present, the disease has already spread to more than 50 countries around the world<sup>2</sup>. The patients usually have respiratory problems and death is the unwanted outcome in severe cases<sup>3,4</sup>. COVID-19 can affect any age group. Infants or neonates are also affected<sup>3,4</sup>. The mode through which infants get the infection is very interesting. It is believed that the close contact with the infected mother is the main route of transmission. The interesting consideration is on the possibility that the disease may be transmittable via breast milk. Based on the nanostructure analysis concept, an emerging viral pathogen can be transmitted via breast milk only if the virus is smaller than breast milk gland pore<sup>5</sup>. Molecularly, coronavirus is a large virus and the size of SARS CoV2 is more than 100 nm<sup>6</sup> that is larger than a milk gland pore. Therefore, the transmission via breast milk should not occur if there is no pathology of the milk gland. In fact, this same principle of nanostructure consideration can be well applied as the explanation for the lack of vertical transmission of SARS-CoV-2<sup>7</sup> because the virus is also larger than the placental pores.

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\***Beuy Joob<sup>1</sup>, Viroj Wiwanitkit<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>*Sanitation I Medical Academic Centre, Bangkok, Thailand*

<sup>2</sup>*Honorary Professor, Dr. DY Patil University, Pune, India and Visiting Professor, Hainan Medical University, Haikou, China*

\*Correspondence: Email: [beuyjoob@hotmail.com](mailto:beuyjoob@hotmail.com)

 [orcid.org/ 0000-0002-5281-0369](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5281-0369)