

An Update on the Gut Microbiome and the Use of Probiotics for Disease Prevention in Preterm Infants

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Received date: January 7, 2018; Accepted date: February 20, 2018; Published date: February 28, 2018

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Abstract

Very low birth weight infants (VLBWIs) are at high risk for inflammatory diseases including necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) or neonatal sepsis, which are primary causes of neonatal mortality. The intestinal microbiota plays an essential role in maintaining local immune homeostasis and enhancing the intestinal barrier in preterm infants; however, appropriate intestinal colonization with normal flora after birth is interrupted by immature

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