

FROM A CLOSED NEONATAL CARE UNIT TO A 24/7 OPEN UNIT: A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE.

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PURPOSE



- ✚ To offer the baby an integral care.
- ✚ To involve parents with the care of the newborn during the time of hospitalization in the NICU of San Ignacio Hospital.

SPECIFIC GOALS

- ✚ To give the baby and family members emotional support within the hospitalization process.
- ✚ To train Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) doctors and paramedics on the emotional care of patients and families.
- ✚ To include a mental health specialist into the multidisciplinary group for emotional support.



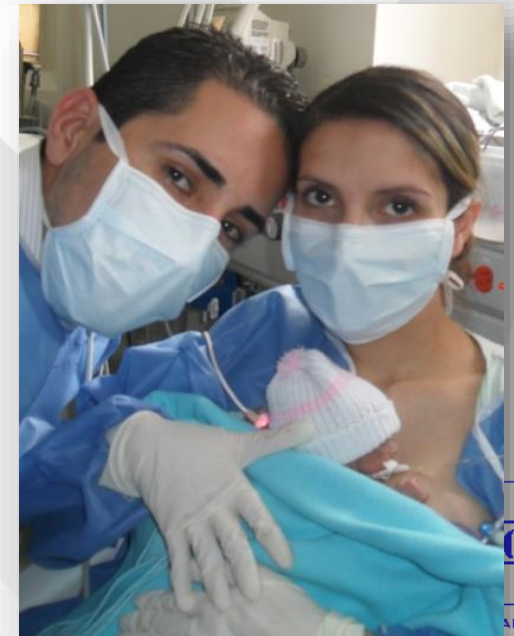
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

- ✚ Time of execution: two years of training the involved personnel through a special program designed for emotional care.
- ✚ Training of parents in the management and care of their newborn at the NICU.



RESULTS

- Implementation of the Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) Method as a routine in the hospital care of the newborn.
- A requirement for good implementation is the 24/7 opened neonatal unit.



Training of parents, grandparents and siblings on the KMC method regardless of the weight and gestational age...
It begins as soon as the child gets hemodynamic stability.



RESULTS

Stress and tension between the parents and the multidisciplinary team decreased because:

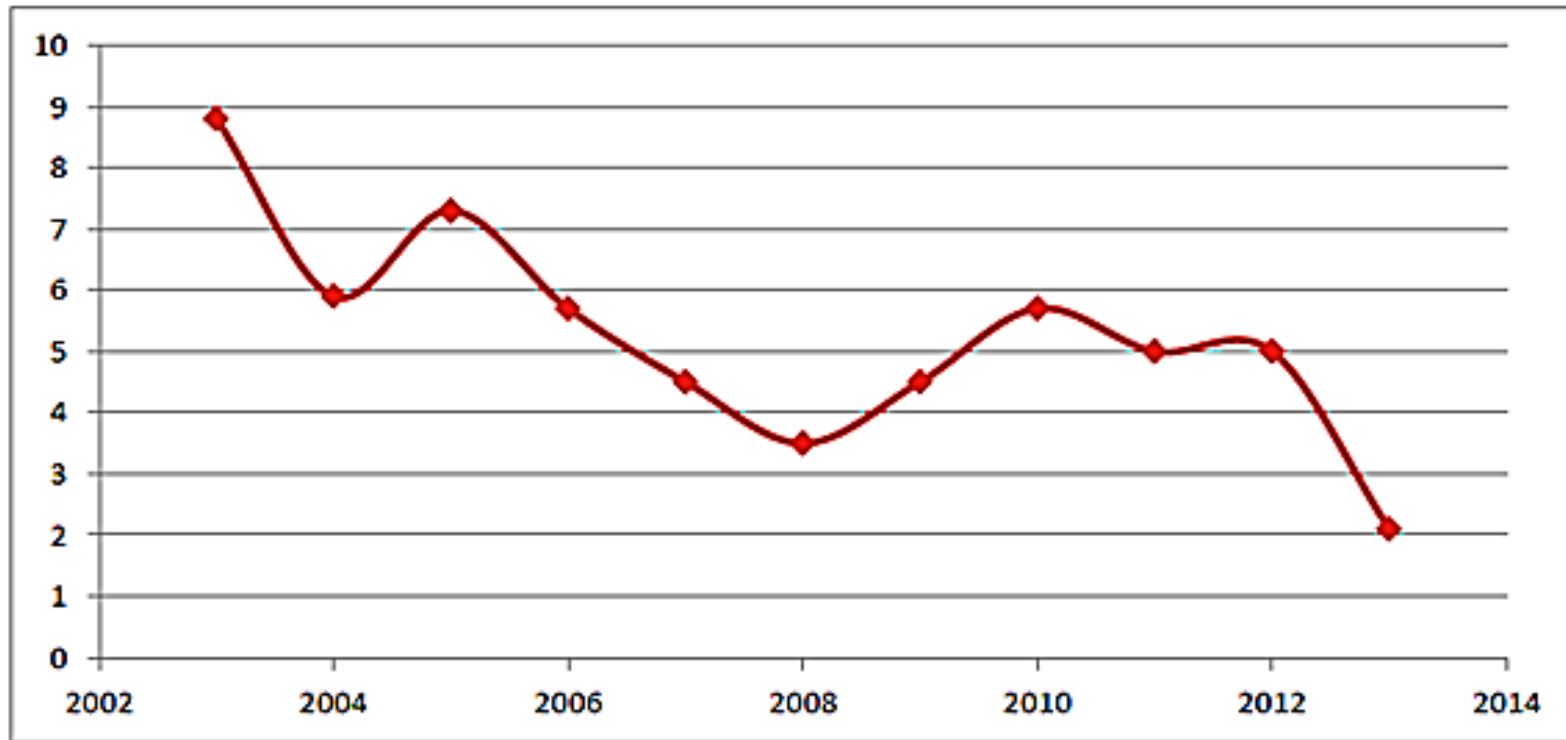
- ✚ They are empowered and are more calm
- ✚ They feed the baby (including gavage)
- ✚ They change diapers
- ✚ They are more able to identify danger signs





- Parents receive spiritual support in every case.
- In difficult moments, they have their own space to vent

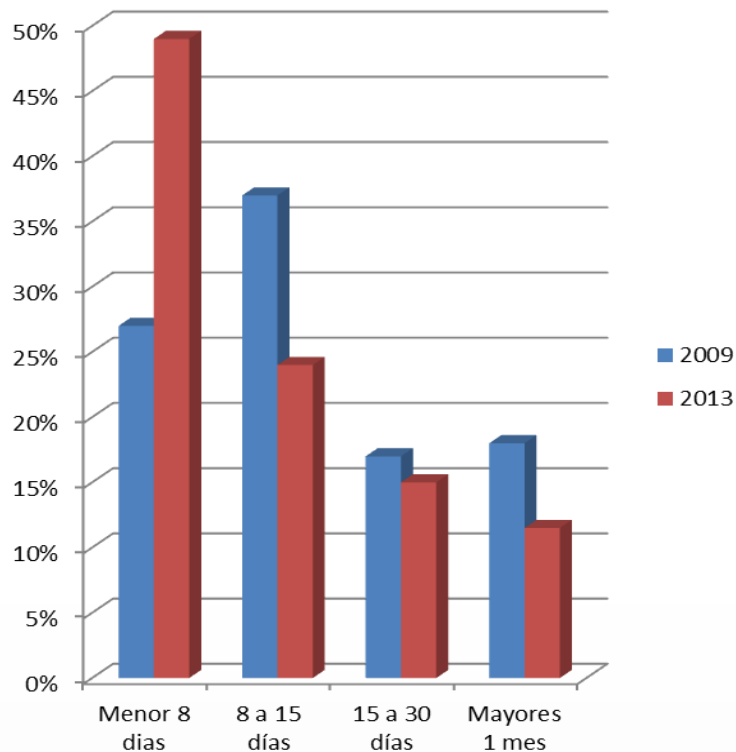
Decrease in hospital-acquired infection because of the opened unit



ACCOMPANIMENT TO PARENTS BY THE INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM

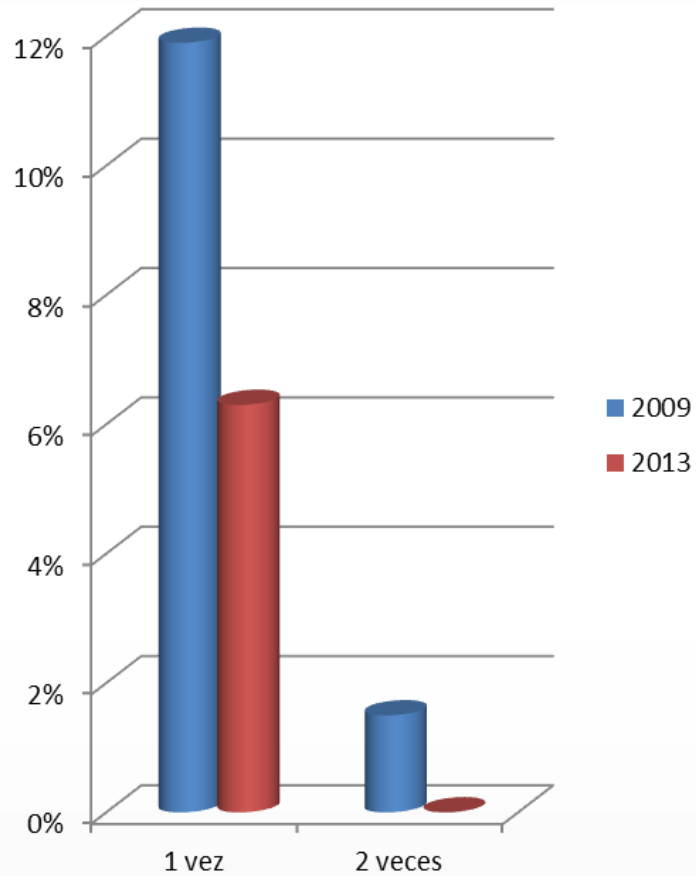


DECREASE OF HOSPITAL STAY

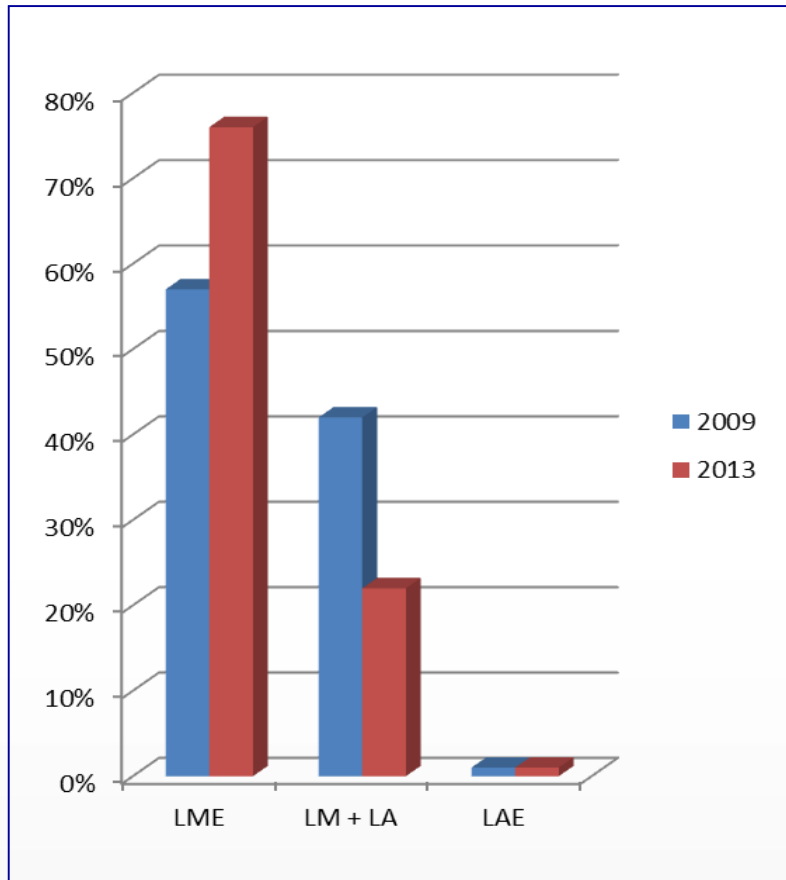


Parents showed an attitude of confidence with newborn care.

REHOSPITALIZATION



There was an increase of exclusive breastfeeding because of the permanent presence of mother with the baby.



CONCLUSIONS

- + Babies who are hospitalized in opened units get more humane care
- + Parents can express feelings/emotions
- + The parents learn to interpret better the baby's needs
- + There is more demand on the health care team to update knowledge to respond to parents questions
- + Integration of emotional aspects into traditional care increases patient and health-team wellbeing.

THANKS...

