Background and Aims  The traditional mercury thermometer has been replaced by the more “user friendly” digital thermometer. As accuracy is comparable with both instruments and mercury remains an environmental hazard they are no longer recommended. New non invasive method of measuring temperature may reduce infection rate as well as intangible pain and suffering of neonate.

Methods  The body temperature of patients admitted in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit was measured using axillary digital thermometer as well as a handheld infrared non touch thermometer. Patients placed under radiant warmers were included. Temperature recordings were taken as required routinely for clinical care. Axillary temperature was recorded within 30 seconds and the forehead temperature within 5 seconds.

Results  The body temperature measured by Axillary digital thermometer and forehead method do not agree well (95% limits of agreement: –4.2, 2.2). A trend was observed suggesting that agreement depends on the magnitude of the temperature. The agreement slightly improved when patients in warmer were excluded (95% limits of agreement: –4.1, 2.1) with similar trend. The best possible agreement was observed between warmer and axillary temperature but was not clinically acceptable (95% limits of agreement: –0.99, 2.36).

Conclusion  Forehead temperature due to non touch may appear less disturbing to the neonate and also time saving for the nurse but they are misleading. The infrared technology needs further improvement before it can be used in our setting. Although advent of technology is tempting, a scientific validation of new technology under different settings is caveat before adapting it.

Objective  Aim of this study is to investigate the relation between intensities of some blood metals as Fe, Zn, Pb, and Cd, in both mothers and their newborn, and their effects on the newborn birth weight, height as well as head circumference using Laser Induced Breakdown spectroscopy LIBS as a non invasive technique.

Methods  34 pregnant women and their normal birth weight newborn (NBW, group I) were recruited and matched against 34 pregnant women and their low birth weight newborn (LBW, group II). Blood samples were collected from the umbilical cords of the newborns from both groups and venous blood samples were taken from their mothers after delivery. Samples were prepared then exposed to laser. We used the laser induced breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS), to analyze the metal intensity of (Cd, Pb, Zn, and Fe), for each sample for both mother and her infant.

Results  There were significant differences between both groups regarding Cd, Pb, Zn, more in group I, while there were no significant differences in both groups in the mother and her newborn regarding to Fe. There were significant differences regarding Cd, Pb, Zn, more in group I, while no significant differences in both groups in the mother and her newborn regarding to Fe.

Conclusion  We found that there was significant negative correlation between birth weight and maternal blood intensity in both groups. We found positive correlation between maternal and newborn blood metals and a negative correlation between intensity of both maternal and infant blood metals regarding weight in both groups.

Background and Aims  To improve our understanding of newborn feeding pathophysiology at the molecular level, our laboratory studies transcripts in neonatal saliva. Previously, we used whole transcriptome microarrays. Here, we tested the hypothesis that sequencing of RNA would provide additional and more specific information.

Methods  RNA was extracted and prepared for sequencing from salivary samples (10 µL) collected from two term infants matched for post-conceptual age, gender and ethnicity who could and could not orally feed, respectively. Paired-end 100 x 100 base pair sequencing was performed on the Illumina HiSeq® 2000. Sequence data were aligned against human reference genome GRCH37/hg19. Cuffdiff analysis identified differentially expressed genes, promoters, and splicing variants between subjects. Ingenuity Pathway Analysis was performed on statistically significantly differentially expressed genes.