

TABLE 1. Clinical findings between groups receiving iron supplements.							
Characteristics	All N= 120		FS group N= 60		FG group N= 60		P value ^a
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Sex							
Male	59	49.2	31	51.7	28	46.7	0.836
Female	61	50.8	29	48.3	32	53.3	
Age (months) ^b	12.4	±3	12.4	±3.3	12.3	±2.7	0.892
Nutrition							
breast milk	17	14.2	8	13.3	9	15	0.562
milk powder	45	37.5	22	36.7	23	38.3	
breast milk & milk powder	58	48.3	30	50	28	46.7	
Weight at birth ^b	3.21	±0.37	3.19	±0.38	3.22	±0.36	0.428
Weight at study time ^b	9.91	±1.14	9.79	±1.14	10.04	±1.14	0.367

N; number, FS; Ferrous sulfate, FG; ferrous gluconate. ^a *p*-values were determined by Pearson's χ^2 test or

Fisher's Exact Test. ^bMean and standard deviation, Student's *t* test.

TABLE 2. Comparison of the effect of iron supplements at the beginning of the study (baseline) and 6 months after supplementation.

Variables/ Iron supplements	Baseline N= 120				6 months after supplementation N= 120			
					FS N:60	FG N:60	All N:120	pv
	FS N:60	FG N:60	All N:120	pv				
Hb level (g/dL) ± SD	11.72±0.53	11.80±0.46	11.75±0.49	0.356	10.10±0.83	12.51±0.58	11.30±0.01	0.045
Hct (%) ± SD	35.38±1.32	35.46±1.28	35.42±1.30	0.568	35.58±2.33	36.38±1.86	35.98±1.02	0.125
RBCs count, 10 ¹² /L, median	3.94±0.25	3.97±0.24	3.95±0.24	0.632	4.01±0.41	4.75±4.77	4.38±1.10	0.230
MCV (fL) ± SD	74.63±1.69	75.06±1.47	74.85±1.59	0.485	74.65±2.41	75.80±2.13	75.22±1.3	0.506
MCH (pg) ± SD	27.5±0.67	27.66±0.72	27.60±0.70	0.540	27.36±1.30	27.93±1.05	27.64±1.21	0.356
MCHC (g/dL) ± SD	30.68±0.89	30.71±0.88	30.70±0.88	0.521	30.56±1.06	31.06±1.02	30.81±0.12	0.132
RDW (%) ± SD	14.12±1.31	14.24±1.20	14.18±1.25	0.623	14.91±2.39	14.48±1.78	14.69±1.04	0.260
Ferritin level (µg/L) ± SD	28.18±4.91	27.98±6.04	28.08±5.48	0.359	28.25±10.24	31.00±9.50	29.63±3.54	0.130

N; number, FS; Ferrous sulfate, FG; ferrous gluconate, SD; Standard of deviation. ^a *p*-values were determined by Pearson's χ^2 test or Fisher's Exact Test.

TABLE 3. Effects on median Hb level based on iron supplements at the beginning of the study (baseline) and 6 months after supplementation.			
Iron compound	Variation in median Hb level (g/dl)	95% CI	<i>P</i> value
FS	Ref.	0.257-2.368	0.489
FG	0.80		
Time of assessment			
Baseline	Ref.	3.890-6.347	0.038
6 months after supplementation	1.70		
Additional increase in the FG group*			
at the beginning of the study (baseline)	Ref.	0.231-2.369	0.541
6 months after supplementation	0.31		

FS; Ferrous sulfate, FG; ferrous gluconate, Ref. = Reference value. * Mutual connection between time of assessment and iron supplement (FG vs. FS). Mixed effects regression model with random intercept, adjusted by gender and age.

TABLE 4. Effects on median ferritin level based on iron supplements at the beginning of the study (baseline) and 6 months after supplementation.			
Iron compound	Variation in median Hb level (µg/l)	95% CI	<i>P</i> value
FS	Ref.	0.125-2.351	0.867
FG	2.82		
Time of assessment			
Baseline	Ref.	0.326-3.457	0.699
6 months after supplementation	1.02		

FS; Ferrous sulfate, FG; ferrous gluconate, Ref. = Reference value. Mixed effects regression model with random intercept, adjusted by gender and age.

TABLE 5. Side effects from receiving iron supplements.							
Side effects	All		FS group ^a		FG group ^b		P value ^c
	N= 120		N= 60		N= 60		
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Anorexia	4	3.3	0	0	4	6.7	P≤0.001
Restlessness	5	41.6	3	5	2	3.3	
Diarrhea	4	3.3	0	0	4	6.7	
Constipation	16	13.3	14	23.3	2	3.3	
Vomiting	15	12.5	15	25	0	0	
None	76	63.3	28	46.7	48	80	
toddlers with any symptom	52	43.3	26	43.3	10	16.7	

N; number, FS; Ferrous sulfate, FG; ferrous gluconate. ^a Six toddlers had more than one symptom but they were counted only once. ^b two toddlers had more than one symptom but they were counted only once. ^c p-values were determined by Pearson's χ^2 test or Fisher's Exact Test.