



CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF
MEDICINE AND THE BODY
IN THE RENAISSANCE

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UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PARMA



STUDIO FIRMANO
PER LA STORIA DELL'ARTE MEDICA E DELLA SCIENZA

CSMBR
ONLINE
EVENTS

CHILDBEARING IN THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD

19
MARCH
2024
5.00 pm CET

BREASTFEEDING REMEDIES IN THE KINGDOM OF MAJORCA (1470-1778)

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In this lecture, I will discuss the *confit d'en cases* or *confectio infantium*, a remedy for breastfed infants with colic, meteorism, and aerophagia. Created by Antoni Cases, a late medieval Majorcan apothecary, it treated ailments with abdominal distension. Its effectiveness is partly proven today. Made with anise and fennel, it has carminative properties, helping with postprandial burping. It was also cheaper than similar drugs like the *tiriaca puerorum*. While in the Late

Middle Ages and Renaissance, many medicines were invented, their distribution in apothecaries varied. The *Confit* was more easily accepted than other preparations as it aligned with the precepts of Galenic medicine. This paper examines the assimilation and dispensation of *confit d'en cases* in Majorca. I use post-mortem inventories from Majorcan apothecaries as main sources, with six inventories from the Arxiu del

Regne de Mallorca (1470-1701) which have been identified. In 1581, there were eighteen drugstores in Majorca, making these inventories a valid sample for study. The Arxiu del Regne de Mallorca, with well-preserved notarial archives, provides insights into local apothecaries and new medicines. This research contributes to scientific knowledge for health professionals in the Western Mediterranean and Iberian Peninsula.