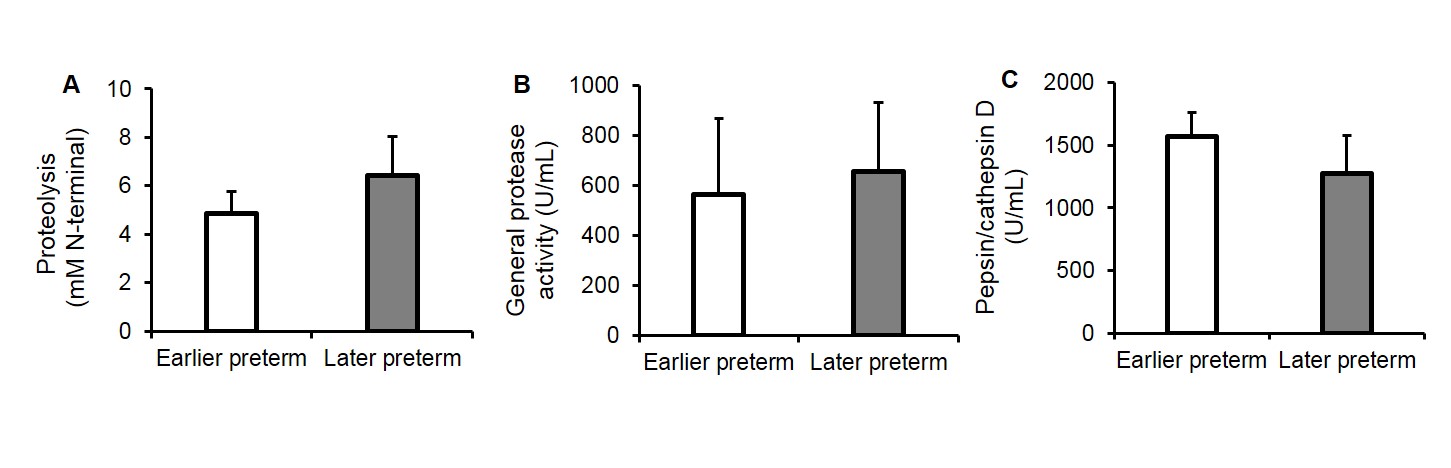
****

**Supplemental Digital Content 6.** Activity of pepsin estimated by subtracting the paired values from human milk incubated to simulate gastric conditions (milkinc) from those in the stomach for (A) proteolysis, (B) general protease activity and (C) pepsin/cathepsin D activity. Paired milkinc and gastric samples were separated by gestational age (GA), earlier preterm (*N* = 10, 24–28 wk GA, 17–42 days of postnatal age) and later preterm (*N* = 6, 28–32 wk GA, 5–30 days of postnatal age). Values are mean ± SEM. Asterisks show statistically significant differences between variables (\*\*, *P* ≤ 0.01; \* *P* ≤ 0.05) using t-tests between earlier preterm (white bars) and later preterm (gray bars) infants.