

INFO SHEET

Nursing women undergoing a radiological examination

You are currently breastfeeding and will be given a contrast agent (nonradioactive iodine or gadolinium dye) as part of a radiological examination, such as a scan.

You should know that only a tiny amount of this product may be found in your breast milk and that there is virtually no trace of it 12 hours after the examination. Most of this tiny amount in your milk that is swallowed by your child will remain in their digestive tract without being absorbed and will eventually be eliminated in their stool. Breastfeeding can therefore continue.

You may also be given a drug that goes with the procedure. Like the contrast agent that will be given to you, this drug can be found in your breast milk, but usually in very small amounts, with little or no impact on your breastfeeding or your child. Please feel free to ask any questions you may have and seek clarification. The radiology team can contact a pharmacist at the pharmacy department at any time for information.

References:

OTIMROEPMQ. Normes de pratique spécifiques - Médicaments et substances. 2020. Online at: https://otimroepmq.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Normes_medicaments_et_substances-CA_2020-1.pdf

American College of Radiology. Administration of contrast media to women who are breastfeeding. ACR Manual on Contrast Media. 2020: 101-102. Online at: https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/Contrast_Media.pdf

Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists. Breastfeeding Patients. Online at: <https://camrt-bpg.ca/patient-safety/radiation-safety-patients/breastfeeding-patients/>

Hamilton Regional Lactation Committee. Breastfeeding after CT Scan with contrast dye. Hamilton Health Sciences 2012. 2 pages. Online at: <https://www.hamiltonhealthsciences.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/BreastfeedAfterCTScanContrastMedia-lw.pdf>

Newman J. Breastfeeding and radiologic procedures. Can Fam Phys 2007; 53: 630-1. Online at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1952588/pdf/050630>