

Breastfeeding and Medication

RADIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

A contrast material must be administered to you as part of an examination?

Breastfeeding can be resumed after examinations with iodine-based and gadolinium-based contrast agents.

The Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT) advises that:

“Current research indicates it is safe to breastfeed after receiving a contrast agent. Only a miniscule amount of contrast agent is passed from mother to baby through breast milk.”



The risk of sensitization/allergic reaction and direct toxicity remains theoretical since it has never been reported in scientific literature.

You can therefore breastfeed as soon as you are back with your child.



If for any reason you want to wait a few hours after the examination, plan to express your milk until you breastfeed your child again to avoid engorgement. You can also express milk before the exam and then give it to your child during this time. However, according to current research, it is not necessary.

Do not hesitate to ask in writing the exact name of the medication you will be given, to ask questions and to seek clarification from your healthcare providers.

REFERENCES:

- ABM Clinical Protocol #31: Radiology and Nuclear Medicine Studies in Lactating Women. Breastfeed med 2019; 14(5): 290-4. On line : <https://www.bfmed.org/assets/31%20Radiology%20and%20Nuclear%20Medicine%20Studies%20in%20Lactating%20Women.pdf>
- American College of Radiology. Administration of contrast media to women who are breastfeeding. ACR manual on contract media. 2020: 101-102. https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/Contrast_Media.pdf
- Canadian Association for Medical Radiation Technologies. Breastfeeding patients. <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. <https://www.hamiltonhealthsciences.ca/wpcontent/uploads/2019/08/BreastfeedAfterCTScanContrastMedia-lw.pdf>
- Newman J. Breastfeeding and radiologic procedures. Can Fam Phys 2007; 53: 630-1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1952588/pdf/050630.pdf>
- Ordre des technologues en imagerie médicale, en radio-oncologie et en électrophysiologie médicale du Québec. Médicaments et substances : NORMES de pratique SPÉCIFIQUES. 2020 On line: https://otimroepmq.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Normes_medicaments_et_substances-CA_2020-1.pdf



**Nathalie Gagnon,
Pharmacist, 2021
revised in 2024**