

Guidelines for breastfeeding mothers undergoing a radionuclide scan

What is a radionuclide scan?

It is a simple procedure, similar to an X-ray, in which a small amount of radioactive material is used to provide pictures that will help your doctor understand your condition.

How does this affect my breast milk?

During breastfeeding some of this radioactive material can pass from mother to baby in breast milk. To prevent affected milk passing to your baby, follow the simple instructions below.

- Feed your baby naturally before the test
- Before the procedure, express at least one feed and store in a fridge or freezer
- Three to four hours after the test express your milk as completely as possible and discard it
- Avoid prolonged close contact with your baby for 12 hours following the test
- Do not resume breast feeding until indicated by the instructions

When can I start breastfeeding again?

This will depend upon the type of injection you have had.

For some tests you may have to stop breastfeeding altogether.

Please follow the ticked instructions:

- You may resume breastfeeding on:

.....at

- You must express all of your breast milk and send to the Nuclear Medicine Department at 3 hour intervals.

Do not breastfeed your baby during this period.

Nuclear Medicine staff will advise when to resume breastfeeding.

- You must stop breastfeeding altogether

Does my breast milk have to be checked before I start feeding at the time indicated?

No, you can resume feeding as normal when instructed by the Nuclear Medicine Technologist. You may request to have the amount of radioactive material measured before you resume feeding. Contact the department for further information

Contact us

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