

Breastfeeding patients having nuclear medicine investigations

Information for women

Department of Physics & Nuclear Medicine

Name
Date
Radiopharmaceutical given
Activity MBq

Why do I need to stop feeding?

Your doctor has decided to perform a test which involves a slightly radioactive injection. This enters your bloodstream and allows us to look at a specific problem you are experiencing. The risk from the test is very low, similar to having an X-ray/CT scan.

Unfortunately, some of the radioactive particles in the injection can pass into your breast milk. If you continue to feed your baby with your breastmilk after the test, your baby will receive an unnecessary dose of radiation.

Feeding your baby during the interruption period

During the time when you are unable to breastfeed, you can continue to give you baby breastmilk that you may have expressed and stored, or you can chose to use formula.

Expressing during the interruption period

In order to reduce the impact of being unable to feed your baby during this period, it is recommended that you express milk whenever your baby would normally feed. You can use a breast pump or you can hand express to clear as much milk from the breasts as possible. Any milk collected during this time should be thrown away. Expressing milk at regular intervals (e.g. whenever your baby would normally have a feed) will help to minimise any interruption in your milk supply.

Breastfeeding patients having nuclear medicine investigations

Information for women

Department of Physics & Nuclear Medicine

For further information, please contact Nuclear Medicine using the phone number at the top of this page. If you need additional information regarding expressing your milk, call the SWBH infant feeding team on 07976 499507, or you can contact the National Breastfeeding helpline on 0300 100 0212.

Please STOP breastfeeding between _____ on _____ and _____ on _____.

If you would like to suggest any amendments or improvements to this leaflet please contact SWB Library Services on ext 3587 or email swbh.library@nhs.net.



A Teaching Trust of The University of Birmingham
Incorporating City, Sandwell and Rowley Regis Hospitals
© Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust

ML612
Issue Date December 2020
Review Date: December 2023