

Breastfeeding and your Nuclear Medicine procedure

Introduction

Your Doctor would like you to have a Nuclear Medicine (Radioisotope) scan. There are special instructions to follow about breastfeeding after the scan. This information sheet tells you what to do and answers some of the questions that you might have.

Breastfeeding Instructions


It is important that you follow these instructions:

You are advised to:

1. Feed your baby normally just before the start of your procedure
2. Do not breast feed again until _____(time) on _____(day/date)
3. At each feed time until you start breast feeding again:-
 - Express your milk fully from both breasts
 - Discard this milk. Do not give this milk to your baby.
 - Feed your baby in some other way. (If you have the chance, express and store some of your milk before the start of the test. You can then use this milk to feed your baby)

To be completed by the operator administering the radiopharmaceutical:

Patient name:		Procedure:	SLNB breast / melanoma
Date of administration:		Administration time:	
Radiopharmaceutical	99mTcNano	Activity (MBq)	
Operator:			

DOR	NMPI/003	Author: D Rowley	Issue: June 2026	Authorised by: 
	Version: 2.0	Review by: R.Hutcheson	Next Review: June 2028	

Why does the scan affect breastfeeding?

As part of the scan you will be given a small amount of radioactivity, a radioisotope. Some of this may go into your breast milk. If your baby drank this milk he/she would also drink a small amount of the radioactivity. It is best to reduce this as much as possible.

Why use radioactivity at all?

Different types of tests tell your doctor different things. Your doctor considers that a radioisotope scan is the best test in your case.

How much radiation will my baby get?

If you follow the advice on this sheet, then your baby will get only a tiny radiation dose. This will be less than the natural background radiation dose that we all get every six months.

Why must I stop breastfeeding for a few hours?

This is to keep the radioactivity your baby gets from your milk to a very low level. The delay will give time to allow the amount of radioactivity in the milk to reduce. Expressing and discarding of your milk during this time will also help to reduce the radioactivity levels.

What shall I feed my baby with instead?

If you have the chance, express and store some of your milk before the start of the test. Use this milk to feed your baby. You may wish to consider using formula milk for a short while.

How shall I feed my baby?

Your midwife or health visitor would be the best person to advise you on short term alternatives to breast feeding your baby.


If you need help with:-

- Expressing your milk.
- Storing your milk.
- Feeding your baby.

Please ask your midwife or health visitor.

If you have any questions about the advice in this leaflet please contact us on:

☎ 028 9041 3836

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