

## Fact Sheet

# Breastfeeding your baby after an MRI or CT scan

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This fact sheet aims to provide you with information about intravenous contrast mediums (imaging dyes) that may be used during your CT, MRI or VQ scan and help you make informed decisions about breastfeeding after your scan.

Contrast mediums are usually inserted into your vein through a small plastic tube (known as a cannula), but may be given by mouth.

**MRI** = Magnetic Resonance Imaging  
**CT** = Computerised Tomography scan  
**VQ** = Ventilation Perfusion Lung Scan

### VQ Scan & Breastfeeding

**Technetium Macroaggregated Albumin 99m (Tc-99m MAA)** is a radioisotope.

- It is recommended that you express your breastmilk for 12 hours following the scan as often as baby would usually breastfeed
- You can then re-commence breastfeeding
- Do not discard the expressed breastmilk, you can store it in the refrigerator and feed to your baby after 12 hours
- Expressing breast milk before the scan may help avoid formula supplementation
- Close contact with your baby may not be recommended for a period of time following the VQ scan. The nuclear medicine consultant will discuss this with you.

### CT Scan & Breastfeeding

Most radiopaque contrast mediums (which may also be called contrast or dye) contain iodine.

According to the 'Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiology' and 'Lactmed' there is no need to stop breastfeeding after receiving an iodine-based contrast medium as less than 1% of the iodine-based dye is present in your breast milk within the first 24 hours.

The following contrast mediums contain iodine.  
**Breastfeeding may be continued as usual.**

Ask your radiographer to tick the IV injection that was used during your CT scan:

✓	Type
	Optiray® 320 & 350 (ioversol)
	Ultravist® 300 (iopromide)
	Urografin® 30% (amidotrizoate, amidotrizoate meglumine)
	Gastrografin® (amidotrizoate)
	Omnipaque® (iohexol)
	Visipaque® (iodixanol)
	Ioscan® (amidotrizoate)
	Biliscopin® (iotroxate)

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### Cholangiography & Cholecystography

Biliscopin (meglumine iotroxate) is an iodinated contrast agent used for Cholangiography & Cholecystography.

If you have **biliary obstruction**, express and discard your milk as often as baby would usually breastfeed for **5 hours** as this medication may take time to be excreted through your liver.

### MRI Scan & Breastfeeding

**Gadolinium**-based contrast mediums are used in MRI scans as it makes the images clearer.

The following medicines are gadolinium containing contrast mediums.

Ask your radiographer to tick the IV injection that was used during your procedure:

✓	Type
	<b>Gadovist® (gadobutrol)</b>
	<b>MultiHance® (gadobenate)</b>
	<b>Primovist® (gadoxetate)</b>
	<b>Dotarem® (gadoteric acid)</b>

According to 'Inside Radiology' there is no need to stop breastfeeding after receiving the above gadolinium based contrast mediums.

If you receive **Magnevist® (gadopentatate)**, express milk **as often as baby would usually breastfeed** and discard your milk for **24 hours**



If you have any further concerns about breastfeeding after your scan, please discuss with your doctor, radiologist or you may contact:

#### Mothersafe:



Medications in Pregnancy and Lactation service on:  
(02) 9382 6539  
(Sydney metropolitan)  
1800 647 848  
(non-metropolitan area)  
<http://www.mothersafe.org.au>

#### References

Drugs and Lactation Database (LactMed). Technetium Tc 99m Albumin Aggregated. April 2, 2018  
European Society of Urogenital Radiology (ESUR) Guidelines on Contrast Media Section 3.5 Pregnancy and Lactation [www.esur.org/guidelines](http://www.esur.org/guidelines)  
Royal Australian New Zealand College of Radiologists (2016) Guidelines for iodinated contrast administration:  
<https://www.ranzcr.com/search/iodinated-contrast-media-guideline-2016-recommendations>  
Inside Radiology (2017): <https://www.insideradiology.com.au/gadolinium-contrast-medium/>

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