Contrast Administration to Breast Feeding Mothers

Your physician has requested a Radiology study that requires the I.V administration of a contrast media or “dye”. The Radiology Department at Boston Medical Center want to ensure that you are given the opportunity to make an informed decision as to whether or not you would like to continue or temporarily withhold from breast-feeding after receiving this contrast media. Below is information that is intended to help you make this decision.

I.V contrast media or “dye” is used to help visualize blood vessels, certain tissues and organs when we take your Cat Scan or MRI images. It is administered through an existing intravascular (I.V) catheter (if you are an inpatient) or one that will be inserted by one of our trained Cat Scan or MRI technologists or Radiology nurses. According to the American College of Radiology*, approximately half of the contrast media that is injected will be cleared from your bloodstream within 2 hours; the remainder within 24 hours of your injection. It is expected that less than 0.01% of the contrast media dose will be absorbed by your baby within 24 hours after your test. Because of the small amount actually ingested by the baby, the American College of Radiology and our BMC Radiologists believe that it is safe for you and your child to continue breast feeding after receiving this contrast media. However, if you are still concerned, you should express and discharge the breast milk for 24 hours after the exam.

If you have any additional questions, please ask to speak to one of the Radiologists.

*The ACR or American College of Radiology is a non profit professional society made up of over 30,000 members. The primary aim of the ACR is to ensure the highest quality patient care. Information in this document was obtained from the ACR’s Manual on Contrast Media, Version 5.0. For more information on the ACR, please go to www.acr.org.

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