



## Technetium Tc 99m Dextran

Revised: October 15, 2023.

### Drug Levels and Effects

#### Summary of Use during Lactation

Information in this record refers to the use of technetium Tc 99m dextran as a diagnostic agent. No information is available on the use of technetium Tc 99m dextran during breastfeeding. The mother should withhold breastfeeding for 60 hours after a diagnostic dose. This length of time is 10 half-lives of the radioisotope, so the nursing infant should not be exposed to radiation if this guideline is followed. The mother can nurse just before administration of the radiopharmaceutical. If the mother has expressed and saved milk prior to the examination, she can feed it to the infant during the period of nursing interruption.[1-3]

Mothers concerned about the level of radioactivity in their milk could ask to have it tested at a nuclear medicine facility at their hospital. When the radioactivity is at a safe level, she may resume breastfeeding. A method for measuring milk radioactivity and determining the time when a mother can safely resume breastfeeding has been published.[4]

For nursing mothers who work with Tc 99m substances in their workplace, there is no need to take any precautions other than those appropriate for general radiation protection.[5]

#### Drug Levels

Tc 99m is a gamma emitter with a principal photon energy of 140 keV and a physical half-life of 6.04 hours.[3] The biological half-life is 1.8 to 3.1 hours, giving an effective half-life from 1.4 to 2 hours.

#### Effects in Breastfed Infants

Relevant published information was not found as of the revision date.

#### Effects on Lactation and Breastmilk

Relevant published information was not found as of the revision date.

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**Disclaimer:** Information presented in this database is not meant as a substitute for professional judgment. You should consult your healthcare provider for breastfeeding advice related to your particular situation. The U.S. government does not warrant or assume any liability or responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the information on this Site.

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## References

1. Mountford PJ, Coakley AJ. A review of the secretion of radioactivity in human breast milk: Data, quantitative analysis and recommendations. *Nucl Med Commun* 1989;10:15-27. PubMed PMID: 2645546.
2. Early PJ, Sodee DB. Principles and practice of nuclear medicine. 2nd ed. St Louis Mosby-Year Book, Inc 1995:1380-1.
3. Dilsizian V, Metter D, Palestro C, Zanzonico P. Advisory Committee on Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI) Sub-Committee on Nursing Mother Guidelines for the Medical Administration of Radioactive Material. Final report submitted: January 31, 2019. 2019. Available at: <https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML1903/ML19038A498.pdf>
4. Stabin MG, Breitz HB. Breast milk excretion of radiopharmaceuticals: Mechanisms, findings, and radiation dosimetry. *J Nucl Med* 2000;41:863-73. PubMed PMID: 10809203.
5. Almén A, Mattsson S. Radiological protection of fetuses and breast-fed children of occupationally exposed women in nuclear medicine - Challenges for hospitals. *Phys Med* 2017;43:172-7. PubMed PMID: 28882410.

## Substance Identification

### Substance Name

Technetium Tc 99m Dextran

### Drug Class

Breast Feeding

Lactation

Milk, Human

Radiopharmaceuticals

Technetium Radioisotopes

Diagnostic Agents