



X-Rays

Revised: October 31, 2018.

Drug Levels and Effects

Summary of Use during Lactation

X-rays used to obtain dental images, x-rays of broken bones, chest x-rays, etc. are a form of electromagnetic radiation similar to light, but with a shorter wavelength. X-rays are present only during the time that the image is being taken and leave no radiation or radioactivity in the body or in milk. Diagnostic X-rays have no known effect on the milk in the breast at the time of imaging, nor on milk production. No special precautions are required.[1]

For information on contrast media used with x-rays, see the LactMed entry for the specific contrast agent. For information on high-dose therapeutic radiation, see the LactMed record on Radiotherapy.

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.

References

1. Groen RS, Bae JY, Lim KJ. Fear of the unknown: ionizing radiation exposure during pregnancy. *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 2012;206:456-62. PubMed PMID: 22244469.

Substance Identification

Substance Name

X-Rays

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Drug Class

Breast Feeding

Lactation

Diagnostic Imaging

Radiation