

Breastfeeding and the Use of Contrast Dyes for Maternal Tests


Kay Hoover, M. Ed., IBCLC, RLC, FILCA

The current recommendation from the American College of Radiology concerning iodinated x-ray contrast media (ionic and nonionic) and gadolinium-based contrast agents states:

...we believe that the available data suggest that it is safe for the mother and infant to continue breastfeeding after receiving such an agent.

Frustrated with the mixed messages our postpartum families were receiving, I developed a poster on contrast dyes to help our hospital nurses and the radiology department, with the assistance of Dr. Tom Hale, members of the Pennsylvania Resource Organization for Lactation Consultants, Barbara Wilson-Clay, Donna Butler, Cindy Griffis, and Jeanne Spencer.

I list the 21 dyes that are available in the U.S. on the back of the poster, based on the listings in *Medications and Mothers' Milk* (Hale, 2010). This listing was reviewed on several occasions by both Dr. Hale and my local chapter of USLCA. Please feel free to copy and distribute this poster widely. Click here for the [full-page version of the poster](#) and [list of contrast agents](#). I am happy to email the front and back sides of the poster so you have it in a Word document. Contact me at kay@hoover.net.



Except for Teslascan (Mangafodipir Trisodium)

It is safe

to breastfeed right

after a scan with a

contrast dye

Radiocontrast Agents and Breastfeeding

Safe Radiocontrast Agents

Barium Sulfate

Not absorbed orally, none will enter the milk
No interruption in breastfeeding is necessary²

Bilopaque (Tyropanoate)

Oral contrast agent for examining the gallbladder
Levels in milk are unknown²

Gadolinium-Containing Radiocontrast Agents

"Review of the literature shows no evidence to suggest that oral ingestion by an infant of the tiny amount of gadolinium contrast agent excreted into breast milk would cause toxic effects. We believe, therefore, that the available data suggest that it is safe for the mother and infant to continue breastfeeding after receiving such an agent."¹

Magnevist (Gadopentetate)	Omniscan (Gadodiamide)
Magnevistan (Gadopentetate)	Optimark (Gadoversetamide)
Magnograf (Gadopentetate)	Prohance (Gadoteridol)
MultiHance (Gadobenate)	Viewgam (Gadopentetate)

Iodinated containing radiopaque medium (Ionic and Nonionic)

"Because of the very small percentage of iodinated contrast medium that is excreted into the breast milk and absorbed by the infant's gut, we believe that the available data suggest that it is safe for the mother and infant to continue breastfeeding after receiving such an agent."¹

Accupaque (Iohexol)	Gastromiro (Iopamidol)	Optiray (Ioversol)
Amipaque (Metrizamide)	Gastrovist (Diatrizoate)	Pamiray (Iopamidol)
Angio-Conray (Iothalamate)	Hexabrix 160 (Ioxaglate)	Proscope (Iopromide)
Angiocontrast (Metrizoate)	Hexabrix 200 (Ioxaglate)	Radiomiron (Iopamidol)
Angiovist (Diatrizoate)	Hexabrix 320 (Ioxaglate)	Reno-30 (Diatrizoate)
Biliopaco (Iopromide)	Hexabrix (Ioxaglate)	Reno-60 (Diatrizoate)
Cardiografin (Diatrizoate)	Hypaque (Diatrizoate)	Reno-Dip (Diatrizoate)
Cholografin (Iodipamide)	Isopaque (Metrizoate)	Renografin (Diatrizoate)
Cistobil (Iopromide)	Iopamiro (Iopamidol)	Reno-M (Diatrizoate)
Clarograf (Iopromide)	Iopamiron (Iopamidol)	Retrografin (Diatrizoate)
Colegraf (Iopromide)	Iopasen (Iopamidol)	Scanlux (Iopamidol)
Colepak (Iopromide)	Isovue (Iopamidol)	Sinografin (Diatrizoate)
Conray-30 (Iothalamate)	Isovue-M (Iopamidol)	Sinografin (Iodipamide)
Conray-43 (Iothalamate)	Jopamiro (Iopamidol)	Solutrast (Iopamidol)
Conray-60 (Iothalamate)	Myelo-Kit (Iohexol)	Telebrix (Ioxitalamic Acid)
Conray 325 (Iothalamate)	Neocontrast (Iopromide)	Telepaque (Iopanoic Acid)
Conray-400, (Iothalamate)	Niopam (Iopamidol)	Ultravist (Iopromide)
Cyso-Conray (Iothalamate)	Omnigraf (Iohexol)	Urovisit (Diatrizoate)
Cysto-Conray II (Iothalamate)	Omnipaque (Iohexol)	Vascoray (Iothalamate)
Cystografin (Diatrizoate)	Omnitrast (Iohexol)	Visipaque (Iodixanol)
Ethibloc (Diatrizoate)	Optiject (Ioversol)	

Radiocontrast Agent of Concern

Teslascan (Mangafodipir Trisodium)

Manganese-containing radiocontrast agent	A brief interruption of breastfeeding for 4 hours
Rapidly redistributed to liver	followed by pumping and dumping her milk once
Save milk ahead of the test for one or two feedings	This would reduce any risk to the infant ²

Bibliography

¹American College of Radiology, Committee on Drugs and Contrast Media (2010). *Administration of contrast media to breastfeeding mothers*, ACR Manual on Contrast Media, Version 7.

²Hale T. (2010). *Medications and mothers' milk* (14th Ed). Amarillo, TX: Hale Publishing. pp. 1150-1151, 1153
Infant-Risk Center—Call to check if medications compatible with breastfeeding (Monday-Friday 9 am to 6 pm EST, 806-352-2519.)

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