



University of Wisconsin
**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

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RE: Gadolinium-Based Contrast Agents in Lactating Patients

MEMO TO: Department of Radiology

FROM: MRI Safety Committee

Scott Reeder (Chair), Kelly Bybee, Marilou Cicero, Aji Djamali, Matt Henry, Jeff Kanne, Fred Kelcz, Frank Korosec, Carol Mitchell, Tom McKinlay, Missy Post, Howard Rowley, Elizabeth Sadowski, Charlie Stojanovich, Mike Tuite, Karl Vigen

The following memo provides an update on the UW-Madison Department of Radiology policy for scanning patients who are breast-feeding and should be considered an addendum to the memo from 6/22/09 on the use of MRI in Pregnant Patients.

Gadolinium-Based Contrast Agents in Lactating Patients:

Historically, it has been recommended at many institutions including UW-Madison, that women who are breast-feeding and undergo a contrast-enhanced MRI with a Gadolinium-based contrast agent (GBCA) pump and discard milk for 24 hours. This recommendation has been based on the observation that minute amounts of GBCA have been detected in breast milk. However, there are no data that suggest that this amount of GBCA is harmful, and the interruption of normal breast-feeding can be disruptive. For these reasons the proposed revisions to the ACR Practice Guideline for Performing and Interpreting Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) states that:

“When GBCAs are administered to nursing women, a small amount of the contrast agent is excreted in the breast milk. It is unlikely that the minute amount of GBCA absorbed by a nursing infant’s gastrointestinal tract will be harmful. If there is concern on the part of the referring physician, radiologist or patient, the nursing mother can be advised to discard her breast milk for 24 hours after GBCA administration.”

The Department of Radiology has adopted these guidelines and no longer recommends, as routine practice, that breast milk be discarded for 24 hours after GBCA administration. Per ACR recommendations, if there is concern on the part of the referring physician, radiologist, or patient, the nursing mother can discard her breast milk for 24 hours after GBCA administration.

Questions can be directed to Scott Reeder, Liz Sadowski, Fred Kelcz, Howard Rowley, Mike Tuite or Tom Grist.