



## Pregnancy & Radiology/Contrast use



Some radiology exams may not be performed if a patient is pregnant or whilst breastfeeding. The following guide offers some useful information. It is a policy of DAB radiology to ask all women of childbearing age if they may be pregnant before performing an exam that involves radiation.

### Pregnancy

In the early stages of pregnancy no examination using ionising radiation is recommended.

This means that before 12 weeks along it is not recommended to have any X-ray, or CT examinations at all. However, if the exam is deemed unavoidable then your referrer will have a conversation with you in regards to the effects on the pregnancy and what can be done to minimise these.

After 12 weeks certain X-ray examinations may be performed as long as protective garments supplied by our department are utilised (lead gowns) and the abdomen is not directly imaged. In this case you would be asked to sign a waiver to say that you still understand the risks to the pregnancy.

### Breastfeeding

Breastfeeding does not need to be stopped or interrupted if a patient will be having an X-ray or CT examination as these exams do not affect the breastmilk.

If an intravenous contrast injection is recommended for a CT examination a breastfeeding patient may be advised to express enough milk before the study to feed the infant for one to two meals.

However, this is not always necessary as the amount of the iodine based contrast that may enter the milk supply is negligible. Overall the majority of radiology exams are considered to be safe for breastfeeding parents.