



London Health Sciences Centre

Patient Information

HOW TO DRY UP YOUR MILK SUPPLY (Neonatal)

1. Wear a well fitting bra with no underwires until your breasts are comfortable. Do not bind your breasts.
2. Wear breast pads until your breasts stop leaking. It is common for some women to leak for several weeks.
3. Drink when you are thirsty. There is no need to decrease the amount you drink.
4. You may try one or both of the following if your breasts are uncomfortable:
 - a) Lie on your back to elevate your breasts. Place a thin towel over your breasts. Apply ice packs made of crushed ice in plastic bags to your breasts. Frozen bags of vegetables also work well.
 - b) Place cold, clean, green cabbage leaves over your breasts, inside your bra. Change the leaves as they become limp and wilted.
5. If you have been breastfeeding your baby or hand expressing/ pumping to provide breastmilk for your ill or premature baby, it is important to reduce your milk supply gradually. Decrease your expressing or pumping time by 5 minutes at each session. Each session should be long enough for your breasts to be comfortable. It may take 1-2 weeks to reduce your milk supply.
6. Discuss with your health care provider the use of over the counter medications to reduce pain and swelling.
7. If you have a supply of expressed breastmilk available and/or want to pump and donate your breastmilk to the Human Milk Bank of North America (HMBANA), please contact the Rogers Hixon Ontario Human Milk Bank at www.milkbankontario.ca or 416-586-4800 x 3053.
8. If you have any questions or concerns, call your local Public Health Unit to talk with a public health nurse or lactation consultant.

References:

- 1) Australian Breastfeeding Association. (2016). *Lactation support for the Bereaved Mother*. Retrieved from <https://www.breastfeeding.asn.au/bfinfo/lactation-suppression>
- 2) Mohrbacher N. (2010). *Breastfeeding Answers Made Simple: A Guide for Helping Mothers*. Amarillo, TX: Hale Publishing, L.P. Chapter 5, p. 192.
- 3) Wambach, K., & Riordan, J. (2016) *Breastfeeding and Human Lactation Fifth Edition*. Boston, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning.
- 4) Jones F. (2011). *Best Practice for Expressing, Storing and Handling Human Milk*. Human Milk Banking Association of North America 3rd Edition

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