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## General Comment

In 2012 I was diagnosed with papillary thyroid cancer. I had a baby I was still breastfeeding plus 4 other children. I received a "tracer" dose and was told I could breastfeed about 24 hours later and to hold my baby at arm's length. Well, that was pretty impossible since he was a baby and I couldn't just not attend to him when he needed it. And when I received my full dose (I think 99 mCi) I was still breastfeeding. I was very concerned about the effect on my child, but the doctor did not seem worried. I was able to stay in a basement room for 3 days until I went back to the hospital for my scan. Then I went home and held my children and hugged my husband as normal. A year later, I had treatment again. I was able to be in a basement again for 3 days, then went home and lived as usual. I was always so nervous to be around other people after getting my RAI, but my doctors didn't really limit me. To even get home from the hospital, I had to be around hundreds of people. (I live in a big city.) I imposed my own rules on being secluded from society. I had read that some doctors had patients be isolated for long periods of time and eat a special low iodine diet. My dr. didn't advise that. I want to trust my dr., but I feel like I was on the low side of the spectrum for taking precautions. To this day I worry that my son's thyroid has been damaged since I did breastfeed him after getting RAI. I have had him tested once, and he is fine right now. But if he ends up getting thyroid cancer, I will bear extreme guilt in not being more cautious with him. I will blame my dr/ regulations. Looking back, I would have felt safer to the public and my family if I had been allowed to be admitted into a special unit for my radiation. I did also develop severe dry mouth and dysfunctional salivary glands as well as dry eyes. It would have been nice to be able to have these symptoms attended to in the hospital. I didn't find out til much later that these were common symptoms from the RAI. I do hope in the future that stricter guidelines/protection/education/hospital admission (or and alternative) could be in place for patients with RAI, for patient and public safety.

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