

Breastfeeding Benefits

For Mom



Breastfeeding burns as many as **500 extra calories each day**, which may make it easier to lose the weight you gained during pregnancy.



Women who breastfeed longer have **lower rates of type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease.**



Women who breastfeed have **lower rates of breast cancer and ovarian cancer.**



Breastfeeding triggers the release of **oxytocin** that causes the **uterus to contract** and may **decrease** the amount of **bleeding you have after giving birth.**

For Baby



Breast milk has the right amount of **fat, sugar, water, protein, and minerals** needed for a baby's growth and development.



Breast milk is **easier to digest than formula**, and breastfed babies have less gas, fewer feeding problems, and less constipation.



Breast milk contains **antibodies that protect infants** from certain illnesses, such as ear infections, diarrhea, respiratory illnesses, and allergies.



Breastfed infants have a **lower risk of sudden infant death syndrome.**



If your baby is born preterm, **breast milk can help reduce the risk of many of the short-term and long-term health problems.**



For additional information and resources, go to www.acog.org/breastfeeding



The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

