

Severe Tuberous Breast Deformity and Breastfeeding

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Introduction: Women with Type III tuberous breasts have constricted breast growth in all four quadrants. In spite of the fact that women with small breasts are usually successful at breastfeeding, this may not be the case in women with the severe form of tuberous breast deformity. Studies on the breastfeeding problems of women with type III tuberous breast deformity are needed.

Method: The breastfeeding success of women who had Type III tuberous breast deformity was compared to the breastfeeding success of women who had normal small breasts (bra cup A). In this study 103 women participated, all of whom had small breasts, and had requested an evaluation for possible breast augmentation. For our study, a period of two weeks or more of non-supplemented breastfeeding was considered adequate indication that the woman was physiologically able to breastfeed successfully. This study was approved by IRB.

Results: Women who had type III tuberous breasts were significantly less successful at breastfeeding when compared to the control group (30% vs. 75%). The difference between the study and control group was statistically significant, $p < 0.5$, regarding breastfeeding success.

Conclusion: Women who have type III tuberous breasts are significantly less successful at breastfeeding. Insufficient glandular tissue within the breast in these patients with severely tuberous and hypoplastic breasts may be the primary cause of the breastfeeding problems found in this study.



Figure 1. Type III tuberous breasts

Insufficient glandular tissue within the breast can preclude successful breastfeeding, even among highly motivated women.