

CHAPTER 9: WHEN IS IT NOT ADVISABLE?

Following are conditions that may require avoidance of breastfeeding:

- ◆ **Drugs taken by mother:** Drugs for major illnesses may preclude breast-feeding. These are; drugs for cancer, antibiotics like tetracycline and chloramphenicol, drugs for thyroid disorders, steroids, anticoagulant drugs, antimigraine drugs etc. hence consult doctor before any drug is started for major illness.
- ◆ **Diseases of breast and mother:** If breast abscess develops, employ other breast. If mother is very sick, bedridden or has severe mental illness, feeding is not recommended. Remove breast milk give to the baby. HIV and Hepatitis-B infections also preclude feeding. However, WHO has advised that in under developed countries like India; even in these diseases continue exclusive breast-feeding. Very poorly nourished mother also should not breast feed.
- ◆ **Infant is not capable of feeding:** weak babies, very premature babies and those with defect of palate & lips cannot suck. Baby with defect in food pipe or with high breathing rate should not be breast fed as milk can aspirate in to the lungs and cause suffocation and pneumonia. Similarly very ill comatose child also should not be breastfed.