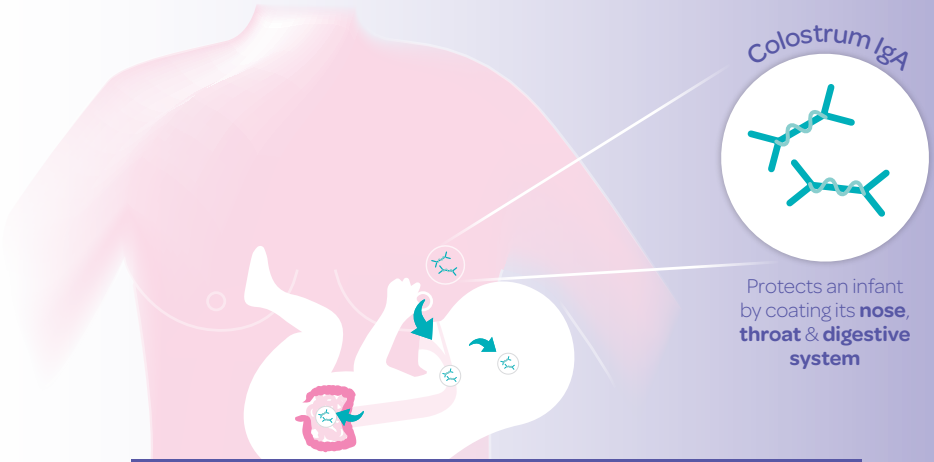
Clinical Pearls

Secretory Immunoglobulin A (sIgA)

Passive **immunity** through Breastfeeding



Protects an infant by coating its **nose**, **throat** & **digestive system**

An antibody (or immunoglobin) is a protein produced by the body's immune system. They take 5 forms; IgA, IgG, IgM,IgD & IgE. **IgA** makes up 80-90% of total immunoglobins in human milk.

Lansinoh

Clinical Pearls

An infant's **first defense system** is provided via secretory IgA antibodies to protect against germs, illness & disease

IgA antibodies guard against germs entering the mucous membranes (infant's mouth, throat, intestines), neutralizing the pathogen

IgA is dose-dependant. The more breastmilk the infant receives the more protection they have

When a mother is exposed to viruses and bacteria, she produces additional **antibodies transferred through her breast milk.** Colostrum includes high amounts of SIgA

IgA plays a part in **preventing microbial infection** in breastfed infants. Research suggests IgA in breastmilk remains high up to **7.5 months** post partum

Research suggests SIgA has been **detected in breastmilk** of mothers with **COVID-19**

Did you know...?

A fully breast-fed infant receives as much as
0.5-1 g
SIgA antibodies daily

An 60 kg adult produces around
2.5 g
SIgA antibodies daily

Lansinoh.