**Transcript**

***Dr Lisa Amir – The CASTLE study***

I’m working on a number of breastfeeding projects. The one I’m going to talk to you about now is about nipple and breast pain in women who are breastfeeding and currently it’s controversial whether the condition that we call breast thrush exists. So, some women who are breastfeeding and have a burning nipple pain and a radiating, stabbing breast pain are thought to have a candida or thrush infection. So, we’ve been conducting a large study where we’ve recruited 360 women and followed them from pregnancy until eight weeks after the birth and collected a lot of samples looking for candida, the fungal organism and staphylococcus, the bacteria.

At the moment we’ve finished collecting the data and we’re getting ready to start analysing what we’ve found and we’ll be able to correlate the findings that we have from women’s symptoms and the microbiological data. Later in the year we’ll be able to present this information and we’ll be able to finally answer this question about whether nipple and breast thrush exists or not.

At the moment women who are experiencing persistent nipple pain will sometimes be diagnosed as nipple thrush, sometimes it’s diagnosed as a bacterial infection, other times people don’t know how to treat it. And so, once we have more information about this it will make it easier for health professionals to treat women who are having nipple pain and then we hope that will make the experience less painful for women and they’ll be able to enjoy breastfeeding more.