

Analgesic Drug During Breastfeeding

Analgesic drug is a drug designed to control pain.

Some of drugs transfer into breast milk and this may carry a risk to a breastfed infant. Because of the many health advantages of human milk to infants, breast feeding **should be interrupted only** when the needed drug might be harmful to the nursing child and exposure via the breast milk will be sufficient to pose a risk.(1)



Transfer of drugs into breast milk is influenced by protein binding, lipid solubility and ionization

Breastfeeding and Medication Tips (3)

- Due to many effects of medications on breastfeeding babies simply are not known, only take a medication when absolutely needed, at the lowest dose and for the shortest time possible.
- When possible, take medications that are given only once a day right after a feeding when your baby will have the longest period without nursing; for many women this is the last feeding of the night before the infant's bedtime.
- Watch your baby for side effects such as sleepiness, irritability, other potential or known reactions of the medication.
- Avoid long-acting (LA), extended-release (ER), and combination forms of medications, when possible. Shorter-acting medications are eliminated from your body more quickly, and single medications give you greater flexibility in dosing.
- Special precautions may be needed in preterm (premature) infants, due to their size and organ systems that are even less developed than a regular term infant.
- Ask your doctor about the risks and benefits of any medication prescribed while you are breastfeeding, or any medication you choose from OTC options that do not require a prescription.
- When more than one medication or a combination medication is used, follow the breastfeeding recommendations for the most problematic medication.

Few analgesic in breastfeeding mother. (2,4)

Drug	Comment
Aspirin	Avoid due to possible association with Reye's syndrome.
Celecoxib	Because of the low levels of celecoxib in breastmilk, amounts ingested by the infant are small and would not be expected to cause any adverse effects in breastfed infants.No special precautions are required.
Diclofenac acid	Consider safe. Other agent may be preferable especially while nursing a newborn or preterm infant.
Ibuprofen	Considered safe. Not detected in milk. Preferred choice.
Indomethacin	Considered safe. One case of seizures (causality questionable). Other agent may be preferable especially while nursing a newborn or preterm infant.
Mefenamic acid	Probably safe. Other agent may be preferable especially while nursing a newborn or preterm infant.
Morphine	Maternal use of oral narcotics during breastfeeding can cause infant drowsiness, central nervous system depression and even death, although low-dose morphine might be preferred over other opiates.
Naproxen	Probably safe. Because of naproxen's long half-life and reported serious adverse reaction in a breastfed neonate, other agents may be preferred while nursing a newborn or preterm infant.
Paracetamol	Considered safe.
Sumatriptan	Exposure limited by low oral availability in term infants. Expressing for 8 hours post-dose will almost completely avoid exposure.

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References:

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