

DRUG THERAPY DURING BREASTFEEDING

Prescribing in lactation

1. Review the nursing patient and ascertain that the drug is really needed by the mother.
2. If the drug is needed, seek information on how to minimize risks. Start with the minimal possible dose.
3. Question whether the drug would be absorbed by the baby, if it is present in the breast milk and, if so, whether it would harm the baby.
4. Question whether the drug would affect lactation.
5. Use only those drugs for which there is evidence regarding safety in preference to the latest drugs.

List of drugs to be used according to criteria

To be avoided

Alcohol	Dihydroergotamine	Phenindione
Alendronate	Diloxanide	Phenobarbiturate
Amiloride	Diphenhydramine	Potassium iodide
Aminophylline	Doxepin	Povidone iodine (used locally in vagina)
Amiodarone	Eflornithine	Praziquantel
Androgen	Ergotamine	Pyrimethamine
Artemether + Lumefantrine	Flucytosine	Radioactive iodine
Aspirin	Fluorouracil	Senna
Benzodiazepines	Fluoxetine	Streptomycin
Bromocriptine	Imipenem + Cilastin	Sulpiride
Chloramphenicol	Indomethacin	Tamoxifen
Chlorpromazine	Iodine	Testosterone
Ciprofloxacin	L-Dopa	Tetracycline
Contraceptives (Combined)	Metronidazole	Theophylline
Cotrimoxazole	Morphine	Thyroxine (modified release)
Cyclosporin A	Nalidixic acid	Vitamin A
Dapsone	Penicillin	Vitamin D
	Pentamidine	
	Pentavalent antimony compounds	

Cautious use	Contraindicated	Toxicity in high doses
Allopurinol	Asparaginase	Corticosteroids
Alprazolam	Azathioprine	Lithium salt
Amitriptyline	Bleomycin	Oestrogen
Carbamazepine	Chlorambucil	Progesterone
Chloral hydrate	Chlormethine	
Chloramphenicol	Cisplatin	
Chlorhexidine	Cotrimoxazole	
Colchicine	Cyclophosphamide	
Didanosine	Cytarabine	
Ergocalciferol	Dacarbazine	
Erythromycin	Dactinomycin	
INH	Daunorubicin	
Ipratropium bromide	Doxorubicin	
Nitrofurantoin	Etoposide	
Opioids (other than morphine)	Levamisole	
Sulphonylureas	Mercaptopurine	
Warfarin	Methotrexate	
	Paclitaxel	
	Procarbazine	
	Radioactive iodine	
	Vinblastine	
	Vincristine	

Note: There is inadequacy of currently available information on drugs in breast milk. Using a drug with caution means to avoid use, if possible. The table should be used only as a guide; absence from the table does not imply safety.