

## DRUG INFORMATION

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### SAFETY OF DICLOFENAC IN BREASTFEEDING

#### Question:

What is the safety of diclofenac in lactation?

#### Answer:

There are little data describing the safety of diclofenac in breastfeeding<sup>[1-6]</sup>. However, diclofenac is a weak acid and is highly bound to plasma proteins - two factors that tend to reduce transfer into breast milk. As a class, it is generally considered that most NSAIDs are compatible with breastfeeding. However, preference should be placed on the use of agents with a short plasma half-life such as diclofenac or ibuprofen.

#### Conclusions:

There is little data describing the safety of diclofenac in breastfeeding. However, NSAIDs are usually considered to be compatible with breastfeeding due to low transfer into breast milk. Indeed, diclofenac may be one of the preferred NSAIDs in breastfeeding due to lower potential for accumulation in a breastfed infant. If NSAIDs are indicated, it would be prudent to use the lowest effective dose for the shortest possible time.

#### References:

1. Drugdex Micromedex database
2. AHFS Drug Information 2000
3. Briggs GG *et al.* Drugs in pregnancy and lactation (5th ed), 1999
4. Medline database 1966-2000
5. Bennett PN. Drugs and Human Lactation (2nd ed), 1996
6. Speight TM, Holford NHG. Avery's Drug Treatment (4th ed), 1997

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