



Tattooing

Revised: June 21, 2021.

Drug Levels and Effects

Summary of Use during Lactation

No data are available on the safety of tattooing during breastfeeding. Theoretical concerns relate to transmission of pigments or infections to the infant during breastfeeding and in the United States, blood donation is not permitted for 12 months after a tattoo as a precaution. Opinion appears to favor not obtaining a new tattoo during breastfeeding.[1-3] Tattooing of the nipple-areola area is sometimes used as part of nipple reconstruction in plastic surgery.[2,4]

Effects in Breastfed Infants

Relevant published information was not found as of the revision date.

Effects on Lactation and Breastmilk

Relevant published information was not found as of the revision date.

References

1. Farley CL, Van Hoover C, Rademeyer CA. Women and tattoos: Fashion, meaning, and implications for health. *J Midwifery Womens Health*. 2019;64:154–69. PubMed PMID: 30806488.
2. Kluger N, De Cuyper C. A practical guide about tattooing in patients with chronic skin disorders and other medical conditions. *Am J Clin Dermatol*. 2018;19:167–80. PubMed PMID: 28993993.
3. Roche-Paull R. Body modifications and breastfeeding: What you need to know. *J Hum Lact*. 2015;31:552–3. PubMed PMID: 26185213.
4. Boccola MA, Savage J, Rozen WM, et al. Surgical correction and reconstruction of the nipple-areola complex: current review of techniques. *J Reconstr Microsurg*. 2010;26:589–600. PubMed PMID: 20721849.

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Substance Identification

Substance Name

Tattooing

Drug Class

Breast Feeding

Lactation

Body Modification, Non-Therapeutic