



Pembrolizumab

Revised: November 15, 2023.

CASRN: 1374853-91-4

Drug Levels and Effects

Summary of Use during Lactation

No information is available on the clinical use of pembrolizumab during breastfeeding. Because pembrolizumab is a large protein molecule with a molecular weight of about 149,000 Da, the amount in milk is likely to be very low.[1] It is also likely to be partially destroyed in the infant's gastrointestinal tract and absorption by the infant is probably minimal.[2] Until more data become available, pembrolizumab should be used with caution during breastfeeding, especially while nursing a newborn or preterm infant. The manufacturer recommends that breastfeeding be discontinued during pembrolizumab therapy and for 4 months after the last dose.

Drug Levels

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

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

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. Stratigakis A, Paty D, Zou P, et al. A regression approach for assessing large molecular drug concentration in breast milk. *Reprod Breed* 2023;3:199-207. doi:10.1016/j.repbre.2023.10.003
2. Anderson PO. Monoclonal antibodies during breastfeeding. *Breastfeed Med* 2021;16:591-3. PubMed PMID: 33956488.

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Substance Identification

Substance Name

Pembrolizumab

CAS Registry Number

1374853-91-4

Drug Class

Breast Feeding

Lactation

Milk, Human

Antibodies, Monoclonal, Humanized

Antineoplastic Agents

Biological Response Modifiers

Immunologic Adjuvants

Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors