



Meningococcal Vaccines

Revised: July 20, 2020.

Drug Levels and Effects

Summary of Use during Lactation

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and several health professional organizations state that vaccines given to a nursing mother do not affect the safety of breastfeeding for mothers or infants and that breastfeeding is not a contraindication to meningococcal vaccine. Immunization of the mother during the third trimester of pregnancy markedly increases the amount of meningococcal antibodies in breastmilk.[1] Breastfed infants should be vaccinated according to the routine recommended schedules.[2-4]

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

Limited data indicate that breastfeeding can enhance the response of the infant to certain vaccine antigens. [2,3,5]

Immunization of pregnant or lactating women with meningococcal vaccine increased the specific secretory IgA content of milk.[6,7]

Effects on Lactation and Breastmilk

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

References

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2. Ezeanolue E, Harriman K, Hunter P, et al. Best Practices Guidance of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/index.html> Accessed June 5, 2020
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4. Gruslin A, Steben M, Halperin S, et al. Immunization in pregnancy: No. 220, December 2008. *Int J Gynaecol Obstet.* 2009;105:187–91. PubMed PMID: 19367691.
5. Pabst HF. Immunomodulation by breast-feeding. *Pediatr Infect Dis J.* 1997;16:991–5. PubMed PMID: 9380478.
6. Lakshman R, Seymour L, Akhtar S, et al. Secretory antibody responses to quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine in lactating mothers. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2000;31:321. Abstract 629.
7. Shahid NS, Steinhoff MC, Roy E, et al. Placental and breast transfer of antibodies after maternal immunization with polysaccharide meningococcal vaccine: a randomized, controlled evaluation. *Vaccine.* 2002;20:2404–9. PubMed PMID: 12009297.

Substance Identification

Substance Name

Meningococcal Vaccines

Drug Class

Breast Feeding

Lactation

Vaccines