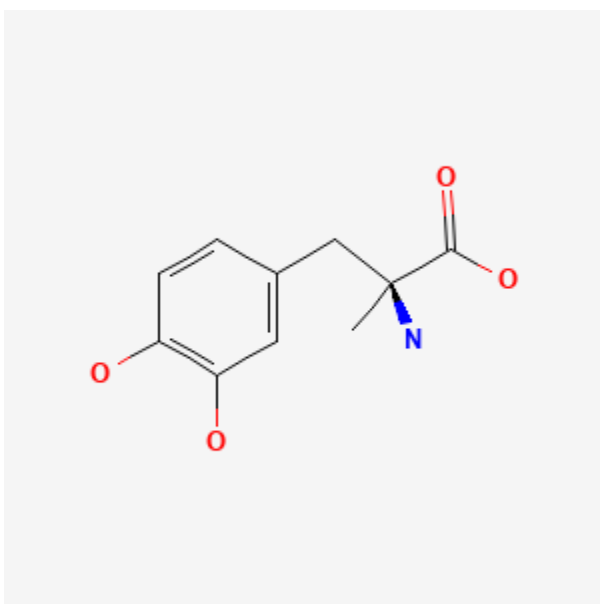




Methyl dopa

Revised: August 16, 2021.

CASRN: 555-30-6



Drug Levels and Effects

Summary of Use during Lactation

Because of the low levels of methyl dopa in breastmilk, amounts ingested by the infant are small and would not be expected to cause any adverse effects in breastfed infants. No special precautions are required.

Drug Levels

Maternal Levels. Three women who were 2 to 15 days postpartum were taking 250 mg of methyl dopa orally 3 or 4 times daily. Randomly drawn milk samples had levels of drug and conjugate that ranged from < 0.1 to 0.5 mg/L at a dose of 750 mg daily and were 0.8 mg/L at a dose of 1 gram daily.[1]

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In 3 women who were 1 to 8 weeks postpartum, peak levels of drug and conjugate occurred between 3 and 6 hours after the dose. Peak levels of drug and conjugate after a dose of 500 mg were 0.2, 0.66 and 1.14 mg/L in 3 mothers' milk. The authors estimated an infant dosage of less than 0.2% of the mother's total dosage.[2]

Infant Levels. No methyldopa was detectable (<200 mcg/L) in the serum of an infant whose mother was taking methyldopa 250 mg twice daily. The infant's urine contained a methyldopa concentration of 3.8 mg/L.[3]

In an 8-week-old infant whose mother was receiving 1 gram daily of methyldopa, a serum level of 90 mcg/L was found 10 hours after a 500 mg maternal dose. Another 1-week-old infant whose mother was receiving 500 mg daily had no detectable drug in the serum (<50 mcg/L).[2]

Effects in Breastfed Infants

No acute or long-term adverse effects were reported in any 15 infants ranging in age from less than 1 week to 8 weeks of age whose mothers were taking oral methyldopa 0.25 to 1.5 grams daily.[1-4]

Effects on Lactation and Breastmilk

Methyldopa can increase serum prolactin and has caused galactorrhea.[5-8] The maternal prolactin level in a mother with established lactation may not affect her ability to breastfeed.

Alternate Drugs to Consider

Enalapril, Hydrochlorothiazide, Methyldopa, Propranolol

References

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Substance Identification

Substance Name

Methyldopa

CAS Registry Number

555-30-6

Drug Class

Breast Feeding

Lactation

Antihypertensive Agents

Adrenergic alpha-2 Receptor Agonists