

NLM Citation: Drugs and Lactation Database (LactMed®) [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; 2006-. Tretinoin. [Updated 2023 Nov 15]. **Bookshelf URL:** https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/



Tretinoin

Revised: November 15, 2023.

CASRN: 302-79-4

Drug Levels and Effects

Summary of Use during Lactation

Tretinoin has not been studied during breastfeeding. Breastfeeding should be avoided during oral use and for 1 week after the last dose. Because it is poorly absorbed after topical application, it is considered a low risk to the nursing infant.[1] Do not apply tretinoin directly to the nipple and areola and ensure that the infant's skin does not come into direct contact with the areas of skin that have been treated.

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.

Disclaimer: Information presented in this database is not meant as a substitute for professional judgment. You should consult your healthcare provider for breastfeeding advice related to your particular situation. The U.S. government does not warrant or assume any liability or responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the information on this Site.

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Effects in Breastfed Infants

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

Effects on Lactation and Breastmilk

A review of adverse reaction reports on retinoids causing a breast reaction submitted to a French pharmacovigilance center found 1 case of gynecomastia was associated with topical tretinoin use.[2]

Alternate Drugs to Consider

(Acne) Azelaic Acid, Benzoyl Peroxide, Clindamycin, Erythromycin; (Psoriasis) Adalimumab, Certolizumab Pegol, Etanercept, Infliximab, Phototherapy, Tretinoin

References

- 1. Butler DC, Heller MM, Murase JE. Safety of dermatologic medications in pregnancy and lactation: Part II. Lactation. J Am Acad Dermatol 2014;70:417.e1-10. PubMed PMID: 24528912.
- 2. Atzenhoffer M, Pierre S, Bellet F, et al. Gynecomastia and galactorrhea: Unlabeled adverse drug reactions of retinoids used in dermatology. Drug Safety 2018;41:1198-9. doi:10.1007/s40264-018-0719-2

Substance Identification

Substance Name

Tretinoin

CAS Registry Number

302-79-4

Drug Class

Breast Feeding

Lactation

Milk, Human

Antineoplastic Agents

Dermatologic Agents

Keratolytic Agents

Retinoids