



## Cholera Vaccine

Revised: June 15, 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 cholera vaccine. Breastfed infants should be vaccinated according to the routine recommended schedules.[1-3]

### 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. [1,2,4]

Administration of injectable cholera vaccine increases milk secretory IgA antibodies against cholera in the breastmilk in some reports.[5,6] Oral cholera vaccines result in a much lower increase in breastmilk anticholera antibodies.[7,8] However administration of oral cholera vaccine to the mother decreased the risk of cholera in their breastfed infants by 47% in one study. The authors hypothesized that vaccination of the mothers reduced their transmission of cholera to their infants.[7]

An open-label study in Bangladesh compared the serum immune response to administration of an oral cholera vaccine (Dukoral; containing killed cholera organisms and cholera subunit B) found that withholding breastfeeding for 3 hours before giving the vaccine resulted in a greater antibody response in infants between 10 and 18 months of age. In infants between 6 and 9 months of age, no difference in antibody response was seen between infants who had breastfeeding withheld and those who did not.[9]

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## Effects on Lactation and Breastmilk

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

## References

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## Substance Identification

### Substance Name

Cholera Vaccine

### Drug Class

Breast Feeding

Lactation

Vaccines