



## Alglucerase

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CASRN: 37228-64-1

## Drug Levels and Effects

### Summary of Use during Lactation

Alglucerase is the placenta-derived form of the enzyme, beta-glucocerebrosidase which is a normal component of human milk. Studies with alglucerase and synthetic forms of the enzyme have found very low levels of the enzyme in breastmilk. Absorption is unlikely because it is probably destroyed in the infant's gastrointestinal tract.[1,2] A limited amount of data support the safety of breastfeeding with alglucerase. An international panel of clinicians from 9 centers that treat Gaucher's disease reported that, breastfeeding complications were less frequent in mothers who were treated with alglucerase or imiglucerase (a biosynthetic form of the enzyme) postpartum than in untreated mothers with Gaucher's disease. Consider limiting the duration of breastfeeding to about 6 months to avoid excessive bone loss in the nursing mother.[2,3]

### Drug Levels

*Maternal Levels.* One woman received 60 units/kg of alglucerase intravenously. Alglucerase appeared in breastmilk in levels above the baseline control values at 2, 6, 12, 24 and 48 hours postinfusion. Concentrations ranged between 69 and 187 ng/L above baseline.[4]

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

### Effects in Breastfed Infants

One woman received alglucerase 30 international units/kg intravenously every 2 weeks during pregnancy and lactation. Her breastfed infant reportedly grew and developed normally.[5]

### Effects on Lactation and Breastmilk

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

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## Alternate Drugs to Consider

Imiglucerase, Taliglucerase Alfa

## References

1. Belmatoug N. Considerations for pregnant patients with Gaucher disease: challenges for the patient and physician. *Clin Ther.* 2009;31 Suppl. C:S192–S3. doi: [10.1016/S0149-2918\(09\)80019-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0149-2918(09)80019-2).
2. Zimran A, Morris E, Mengel E, et al. The female Gaucher patient: The impact of enzyme replacement therapy around key reproductive events (menstruation, pregnancy and menopause). *Blood Cells Molec Dis.* 2009;43:264–88. PubMed PMID: 19502088.
3. Granovsky-Grisaru S, Belmatoug N, vom Dahl S, et al. The management of pregnancy in Gaucher disease. *Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol.* 2011;156:3–8. PubMed PMID: 21269752.
4. Esplin J, Greenspoon JS, Cheng E, et al. Alglucerase infusions in pregnant type 1 Gaucher patients. *Blood.* 1993;82:509a. Abstract 2020.
5. Aporta Rodriguez R, Escobar Vedia JL, Navarro Castro AM, et al. Alglucerase enzyme replacement therapy used safely and effectively throughout the whole pregnancy of a Gaucher disease patient. *Haematologica.* 1998;83:852–3. PubMed PMID: 9825582.

## Substance Identification

### Substance Name

Alglucerase

### CAS Registry Number

37228-64-1

### Drug Class

Breast Feeding

Lactation

Enzymes

Enzyme Replacement Therapy