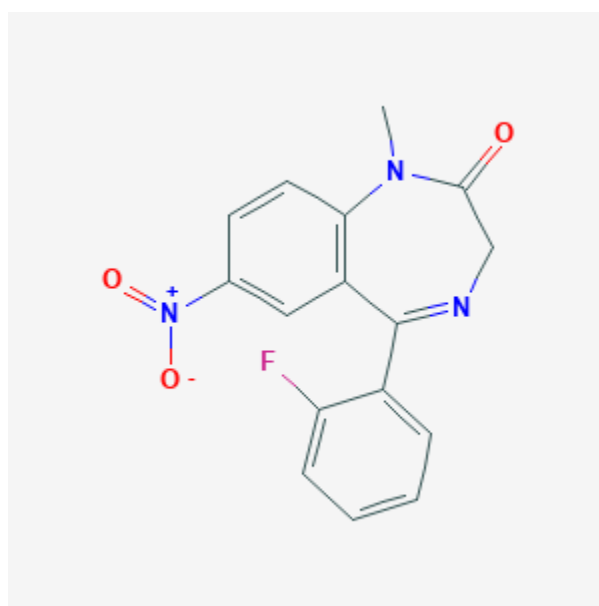




Flunitrazepam

Revised: December 3, 2018.

CASRN: 1622-62-4



Drug Levels and Effects

Summary of Use during Lactation

Flunitrazepam is not approved for marketing in the United States by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. It is excreted into breastmilk and, because of its long half-life of about 20 hours, it may accumulate in the serum of breastfed infants with repeated doses. Other agents are preferred, especially while nursing a newborn or preterm infant. After a single dose of flunitrazepam, as for sedation before a procedure, there is usually no need to wait to resume breastfeeding, although with a newborn or preterm infant, a cautious approach would be to wait a period of 6 to 8 hours before resuming nursing.

Drug Levels

Flunitrazepam is metabolized to the active metabolite norflunitrazepam.

Maternal Levels. Five nursing mothers were given a single oral dose of flunitrazepam 2 mg (66 mcg/kg) at 8 pm. Milk samples were collected 11, 15 and 27 hours later. The average flunitrazepam concentrations in milk were 2 mcg/L at 11 hours after the dose, 1.7 mcg/L at 15 hours after the dose, and 0.6 mcg/L at 27 hours after the dose. Norflunitrazepam was not detectable (<0.2 mcg/L) in milk at any of these times.[1][2] From these data, it is estimated that a fully breastfed infant would receive about 1% of the maternal weight-adjusted dosage.[3]

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

Effects in Breastfed Infants

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

Effects on Lactation and Breastmilk

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

Alternate Drugs to Consider

Lorazepam, Midazolam, Oxazepam

References

1. Kanto J, Aaltonen L, Kangas L et al. Placental transfer and breast milk levels of flunitrazepam. *Curr Ther Res.* 1979;26:539-46.
2. Kanto JH. Use of benzodiazepines during pregnancy, labour and lactation, with particular reference to pharmacokinetic considerations. *Drugs.* 1982;23:354-80. PubMed PMID: 6124415.
3. Chisholm CA, Kuller JA. A guide to the safety of CNS-active agents during breastfeeding. *Drug Saf.* 1997;17:127-42. PubMed PMID: 9285203.

Substance Identification

Substance Name

Flunitrazepam

CAS Registry Number

1622-62-4

Drug Class

Breast Feeding

Lactation

Hypnotics and Sedatives

Anti-Anxiety Agents

Benzodiazepines