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## **Meningococcal Vaccines**

Revised: October 31, 2018.

# **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 meningococcal vaccine. Immunization of the mother during the third trimester of pregnancy markedly increases the amount of meningococcal antibodies in breastmilk.[1] Breastfed infants should be vaccinated according to the routine recommended schedules.[2][3][4]

#### **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.[3][4] [5]

Immunization of pregnant or lactating women with meningococcal vaccine increased the specific secretory IgA content of milk.[6][7]

### **Effects on Lactation and Breastmilk**

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

### References

- Maertens K, De Schutter S, Braeckman T et al. Breastfeeding after maternal immunisation during pregnancy: Providing immunological protection to the newborn: A review. Vaccine. 2014;32:1786-92. PubMed PMID: 24530929.
- 2. Gruslin A, Steben M, Halperin S et al. Immunization in pregnancy: No. 220, December 2008. Int J Gynaecol Obstet. 2009;105:187-91. PubMed PMID: 19367691.

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- 3. American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Infectious Diseases, Kimberlin DW, Brady MT et al. Red Book: 2015 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases. 30th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics. 2015.
- 4. General recommendations on immunization --- recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). MMWR Recomm Rep. 2011;60 (RR-2):1-64. PubMed PMID: 21293327.
- 5. Pabst HF. Immunomodulation by breast-feeding. Pediatr Infect Dis J. 1997;16:991-5. PubMed PMID: 9380478.
- 6. Lakshman R, Seymour L, Akhtar S et al. Secretory antibody responses to quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine in lactating mothers. Clin Infect Dis. 2000;31(1):321. Abstract 629.
- 7. Shahid NS, Steinhoff MC, Roy E et al. Placental and breast transfer of antibodies after maternal immunization with polysaccharide meningiococcal vaccine: a randomized, controlled evaluation. Vaccine. 2002;20:2404-9. PubMed PMID: 12009297.

## **Substance Identification**

#### **Substance Name**

Meningococcal Vaccines

#### **Drug Class**

Breast Feeding

Lactation

Vaccines