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## **BCG Vaccine**

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 the BCG vaccine. Breastfed infants should be vaccinated according to the routine recommended schedules.[1][2][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**

In one study, breastfeeding improved the cellular immune response to BCG vaccine if the vaccine was given at birth. However, if the vaccine was given at 1 month of age, breastfeeding had no effect.[4]

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

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

#### References

- 1. 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.
- 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.
- 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. Pabst HF, Godel J, Grace M et al. Effect of breast-feeding on immune response to BCG vaccine. Lancet. 1989;333:295-7. PubMed PMID: 2563456.

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# Substance Identification Substance Name

BCG Vaccine

## **Drug Class**

**Breast Feeding** 

Lactation

Vaccines