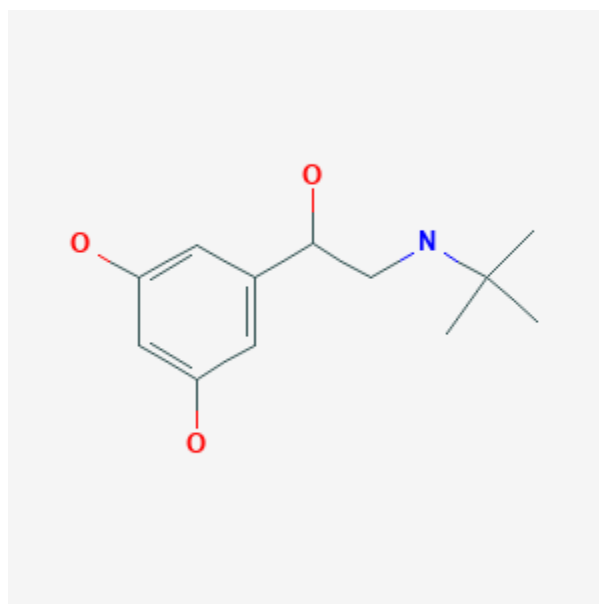




## Terbutaline

Revised: October 31, 2018.

CASRN: 23031-25-6



## Drug Levels and Effects

### Summary of Use during Lactation

Maternal use of oral or inhaled terbutaline is unlikely to affect a breastfed infant. The authors of several reviews and an expert panel agree that use of inhaled bronchodilators is acceptable during breastfeeding because of the low bioavailability and maternal serum levels after use.[1][2][3][4][5] Terbutaline use as a tocolytic agent might decrease the duration of breastfeeding.

### Drug Levels

*Maternal Levels.* With long-term maternal intake of 2.5 or 5 mg three times daily orally, milk terbutaline levels ranged from 2.5 to 4 mcg/L at various times during the dosing interval. There was little fluctuation of milk levels. The average dose that an exclusively breastfed infant would receive based on these patients is 1.4% (range 0.7 to 2.2%) of the maternal weight-adjusted dose.[6][7][8]

**Disclaimer:** Information presented in this database is not meant as a substitute for professional judgment. You should consult your healthcare provider for breastfeeding advice related to your particular situation. The U.S. government does not warrant or assume any liability or responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the information on this Site .

*Infant Levels.* Serum levels were undetectable (<0.1 mcg/L) in one 8-week-old exclusively breastfed infant whose mother was taking oral terbutaline 5 mg three times daily.[7][8]

## Effects in Breastfed Infants

Two papers have reported a total of 4 infants aged 3 to 8 weeks who were breastfed during maternal use of oral terbutaline 2.5 or 5 mg three times daily. None of the infants had any signs of sympathetic stimulation and all were developing normally.[6][7] These cases were also summarized in a third publication.[8]

## Effects on Lactation and Breastmilk

A small retrospective survey from Serbia found that mothers who received a beta agonist pharmacologically similar to terbutaline (fenoterol or hexoprenaline) as a tocolytic breastfed for a shorter period of time than those who received no tocolytic (4.5 vs 9.5 months).[9] It is not known if terbutaline has a similar effect.

## References

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## Substance Identification

### Substance Name

Terbutaline

### CAS Registry Number

23031-25-6

### Drug Class

Breast Feeding

Lactation

Bronchodilator Agents

Beta Adrenergic Agonists