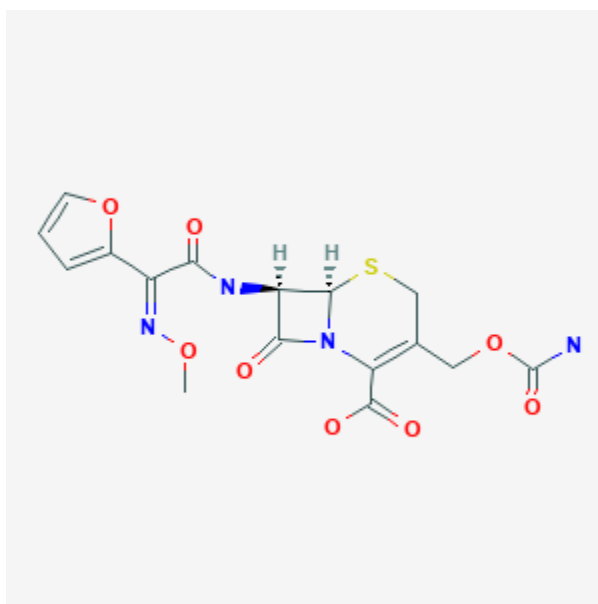




Cefuroxime

Revised: October 31, 2018.

CASRN: 55268-75-2



Drug Levels and Effects

Summary of Use during Lactation

Limited information indicates that cefuroxime produces low levels in milk that are not expected to cause severe adverse effects in breastfed infants. Occasionally disruption of the infant's gastrointestinal flora, resulting in diarrhea or thrush have been reported with cephalosporins, but these effects have not been adequately evaluated. Cefuroxime is acceptable in nursing mothers.

Drug Levels

Maternal Levels. A single intravenous dose of 750 mg of cefuroxime was given to 5 women. The average peak cefuroxime level in milk was 0.37 mg/L 3 hours after the dose. Individual peak levels of 0.33 to 0.5 mg/L occurred 2 to 4 hours after the dose.[1]

A single intramuscular injection of 750 mg of cefuroxime was given to 8 women with endometritis. Milk cefuroxime levels increased from 0.34 mg/L at 30 minutes after the injection to 1.45 mg/L at 8 hours after the injection.[2]

After cefuroxime 750 mg three times daily intramuscularly, peak milk levels averaging 1.2 mg/L occurred 6 hours after the dose. Cefuroxime was detectable at a concentration of 0.36 mg/L 30 minutes after the dose, and by 8 hours the milk level had decreased to 1.06 mg/L.[3]

One mother received cefuroxime axetil 500 mg orally three times daily for acute mastitis of the left breast following incision and drainage of the lesion. Milk samples were taken from each breast 30 minutes after the dose on day 1 of therapy. The concentration of cefuroxime in the unaffected breast was 90 mcg/L and the concentration in the breast treated for mastitis was 590 mcg/L. On day 2 of therapy, milk samples from the right and left breast were taken 90 minutes after the dose were 57 and 59 mcg/L, respectively. On day 3, milk samples obtained 90 minutes after the dose contained 27 mcg/L in the unaffected breast and 1.07 mg/L in the affected breast.[4]

Two women who had been receiving intravenous cefuroxime 750 mg 3 times daily for 2 days following cesarean section donated milk samples 1 hour after the dose. Milk concentrations were 0.34 and 0.39 mg/L.[5]

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

Effects in Breastfed Infants

A prospective, controlled study asked mothers who called an information service about adverse reactions experience by their breastfed infants. Mothers were taking either cephalexin or cefuroxime. No statistical difference was found in the rate of adverse reactions in the 2 groups, with 1 case of diarrhea in each. This amounted to 2.6% of the cefuroxime-exposed infants.[6]

Effects on Lactation and Breastmilk

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

References

1. Takase Z, Shirofujii H, Uchida M. Fundamental and clinical studies of cefuroxime in the field of obstetrics and gynecology. *Chemotherapy (Tokyo)*. 1979;27 (Suppl 6):600-2.
2. Voropaeva SD, Emel'ianova AI, Ankirskaja AS et al. [Effectiveness of using cefuroxime in the obstetrics and gynecology clinic]. *Antibiotiki*. 1981;27:697-701. PubMed PMID: 7149693.
3. Amiraslanova LA, Emel'ianova AI, Fursova SA, Rukhadze TG. [Various characteristics of the pharmacokinetics of ampicillin, kanamycin and cefuroxime in puerperants with endometritis]. *Akush Ginekol (Mosk)*. 1985;Oct; (10):14-7. PubMed PMID: 2934996.
4. Nakamura T, Hashimoto I, Sawada Y, Mikami J. [Clinical studies on cefuroxime axetil in acute mastitis]. *Jpn J Antibiot*. 1987;40:340-8. PubMed PMID: 3599383.
5. Kiriazopoulos E, Zaharaki S, Vonaparti A et al. Quantification of three beta-lactam antibiotics in breast milk and human plasma by hydrophilic interaction liquid chromatography/positive-ion electrospray ionization mass spectrometry. *Drug Test Anal*. 2017;9:1062-72. PubMed PMID: 27714984.
6. Benyamini L, Merlob P, Stahl B et al. The safety of amoxicillin/clavulanic acid and cefuroxime during lactation. *Ther Drug Monit*. 2005;27:499-502. PubMed PMID: 16044108.

Substance Identification

Substance Name

Cefuroxime

CAS Registry Number

55268-75-2

Drug Class

Breast Feeding

Lactation

Anti-Infective Agents

Antibacterial Agents

Cephalosporins