

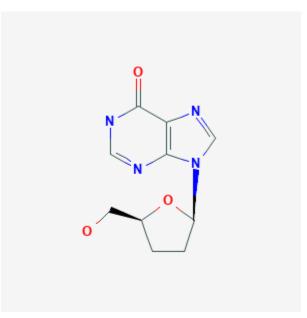
U.S. National Library of Medicine National Center for Biotechnology Information **NLM Citation:** Drugs and Lactation Database (LactMed) [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): National Library of Medicine (US); 2006-. Didanosine. [Updated 2018 Oct 31]. **Bookshelf URL:** https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/



# Didanosine

Revised: October 31, 2018.

CASRN: 69655-05-6



# **Drug Levels and Effects**

# Summary of Use during Lactation

In the United States and other developed countries, HIV-infected mothers should generally not breastfeed their infants. No published information is available on the use of didanosine during breastfeeding. In countries in which no acceptable, feasible, sustainable and safe replacement feeding is available, World Health Organization guidelines recommend that all women with an HIV infection who are pregnant or breastfeeding should be maintained on antiretroviral therapy for at least the duration of risk for mother-to-child transmission. Mothers should exclusively breastfeed their infants for the first 6 months of life; breastfeeding with complementary feeding should continue through at least 12 months of life up to 24 months of life.[1] The first choice regimen for nursing mothers is tenofovir, efavirenz and either lamivudine or emtricitabine. If these drugs are unavailable, alternative regimens include: 1) zidovudine, lamivudine and efavirenz; 2) zidovudine, lamivudine and

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nevirapine; or 3) tenofovir, nevirapine and either lamivudine or emtricitabine. Exclusively breastfed infants should also receive 6 weeks of prophylaxis with nevirapine.[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**

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**

#### Lamivudine, Nelfinavir, Nevirapine, Zidovudine

## References

- 1. Anon. Guideline: Updates on HIV and infant feeding: The duration of breastfeeding, and support from health services to improve feeding practices among mothers living with HIV. Geneva: World Health Organization. 2016. PubMed PMID: 27583316.
- 2. World Health Organization. HIV and infant feeding: update. 2007. Available at: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2007/9789241595964\_eng.pdf
- 3. World Health Organization. Consolidated guidelines on the use of antiretroviral drugs for treating and preventing HIV infection. Geneva: World Health Organization. 2013. Available at: http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/guidelines/arv2013/en/

# **Substance Identification**

### **Substance Name**

Didanosine

# **CAS Registry Number**

69655-05-6

# **Drug Class**

Breast Feeding Lactation Anti-Infective Agents Anti-HIV Agents Antiviral Agents Anti-Retroviral Agents

Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors