Benefits of LactMed

- Online with flexible database searching
- Standardized unit record structure
- Complete drug-specific reviews
- Includes links to PubMed
- Peer reviewed by an expert panel
- Suggests alternative drugs
- Future expansion with agents beyond drugs
- Updated monthly

Major Categories of Information

- Summary of Use During Lactation
- Drug Levels [Maternal and Infant (Serum of Urine)]
- Effects on Infants
- Possible Effects on Lactation
- AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) Category
- References (hyperlinked to PubMed when available)
- Substance Name
- CAS Registry Number

Why a Database for Breastfeeding and Drugs?

...it is critical that up-to-date information about the effects of medication use during pregnancy and lactation and the management of maternal conditions be available to women and healthcare providers. A comprehensive, coordinated public health approach that builds on and expands existing activities is needed to generate information about medication use, make that information readily available, and translate it into safe and effective healthcare.—

Lagoy CT et al. Report from the CDC: Medication Use During Pregnancy and Lactation: An Urgent Call for Public Health Action. Journal of Women's Health 14(2): 104-9, March 2005.

Who is Behind LactMed?

LactMed was developed by a pharmacist who is an expert in this subject area. Three other recognized authorities serve as the database's scientific review panel.

Assistance and FAQs

Help and FAQ links are available at the lower right under "Support Pages."

The National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM, an outreach program of NLM, provides assistance and training nationwide. To find a local library, please call 800-338-7657 or link to http://nnlm.gov/members/.

LACTMED BASICS

LactMed, a FREE online database with information on drugs and lactation, is one of the newest additions to the National Library of Medicine's (NLM)TOXNET system, a Web-based collection of resources covering toxicology, chemical safety, and environmental health.
http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov

About LactMed

- Over 500 drugs
- Data mined from scientific literature
- Peer Reviewed
- Fully Referenced
- Links to PubMed citations
- Glossary of breastfeeding terms
- Breastfeeding links
- "Limit" search for greater specificity
- "Browse" index
- Searchable with other TOXNET databases

LactMed Searching

In the query box, enter one or more terms (e.g., phenobarbital) which describe your search topic. These may be any combination of words, chemical names, brand names, and numbers, including Chemical Abstracts Services (CAS) Registry Numbers (RN). Common "stop words" such as "a," "an," "for," "the," and "it," will not be searched.

Browsing the Index

Clicking on the **Browse the Index** button will display a segment of the LactMed index, beginning with the term you enter (e.g., amoxicillin), and let you scan the index alphabetically (or numerically) above or below the original display by clicking on the **Up** or **Down** button. For each index term, the system displays the number of LactMed records containing that term. By checking the "Check to Select" box(es) corresponding to the index term(s) of interest and clicking on the **Select** button, you can search on the selected term(s). You may browse the index to all words, CAS Registry Numbers, or chemical names.

Searching Multiple Databases

Clicking on any of the cells in this column will take you directly to the search screen for the database selected. "Multi-databases" offers simultaneous searching of LACTMED, (LactMed listed twice) CCRIS, IRIS, ITER, LactMed, and GENE-TOX. The question mark symbol ("?") next to each database provides a brief description of it, with links to a more detailed Fact Sheet and a sample record.

Some Proponents of Breastfeeding

Advocates of exclusive breastfeeding for at least 6 months include:
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
- American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)
- American Dietetic Association (ADA)
- World Health Organization (WHO)

Healthy People 2010 Breastfeeding Goals
- Early postpartum—75%
- 6 months—50%
- 1 year—25%

http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov

Search Results

Your initial retrieval is displayed as a list of chemical names, highlighted in blue and underlined, and their CAS Registry Numbers. If your search was for a chemical or drug (e.g., codeine) and there is a match for it in the database, the record for this chemical, referred to as the primary chemical record, will display first, followed by a list of other chemical records which also contain some mention of the chemical you entered.

Record Content Display

Contents — Contract all categories / Expand all categories — Select / Clear

- FULL RECORD
- Drug Levels and Effects
  - Summary of Use during Lactation
  - Drug Levels
  - Effects in Breastfed Infants
  - Possible Effects on Lactation
  - AAP Category
  - Alternate Drugs to Consider
  - References
- Substance Identification
  - Substance Name
  - CAS Registry Number
  - Drug Class
- Administrative Information
  - LactMed Record Number
  - Last Revision Date

Recommended Browsers

TOXNET is best viewed with Internet Explorer 4.0 or Netscape 4.0 or higher versions, for either PC or Mac.

Created 9/14/06
Updated 1/16/07