

### Dental Work and Breastfeeding

Both x-rays and novocaine (and other drugs used for local anesthesia, such as bupivacaine and [lidocaine](#)) are considered to be compatible with breastfeeding. Most medications used for oral and IV sedation are considered compatible with breastfeeding.

Nitrous oxide (laughing gas) sedation is also considered to be compatible with breastfeeding. It is virtually insoluble in the bloodstream, which means it goes from your brain to your lungs to the room air immediately after you stop breathing it in. Per Hale, “it is rapidly eliminated from the body due to rapid exchange with nitrogen via the pulmonary alveoli (within minutes). A rapid recovery generally occurs within 3-5 minutes... Ingestion of nitrous oxide orally via milk is unlikely.”

A mother who has wisdom tooth surgery should not need to interrupt breastfeeding at all (except during the surgery, of course). To minimize baby’s exposure (and increase mom’s comfort), mom can nurse just before she goes in for the procedure. There is no need to wait on breastfeeding afterwards or to pump and dump — mom can nurse as soon as she feels alert enough to hold baby.

There are many pain medications compatible with breastfeeding:

Info on selected medications used for pain relief				
Name of medication	AAP approved?*	Pregnancy Risk Category**	Lactation Risk Category**	Notes
Acetaminophen (Tylenol)	Approved	B	L1	
Aspirin	Caution	C (1st, 2nd trim.) D (3rd trim.)	L3	<a href="#">1</a>
Azapropazone (Rheumox)	Approved	-	L2	
Butalbital (Fioricet, Fiorinal, Bancap, Two-dyne)	NR	D	L3	<a href="#">2</a>
Butorphanol (Stadol)	Approved	B (1st, 2nd trim.) D (3rd trim.)	L3	
Celecoxib (Celebrex) ( <a href="#">FDA safety info</a> )	NR	C	L2	
Codeine (in Tylenol #3, #4)	Approved	C	L3	<a href="#">3</a>
Colchicine	Approved	D	L4	
Diclofenac (Cataflam, Voltaren)	NR	B	L2	
Fentanyl (Sublimaze)	Approved	B	L2	
Flurbiprofen (Ansaid, Froben, Ocufer)	NR	B (1st, 2nd trim.) C (3rd trim.)	L2	
Hydrocodone (Lortab, Vicodin)	NR	B	L3	<a href="#">4</a>
Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)	NR	C	L3	<a href="#">5</a>
Ibuprofen (Advil, Nuprin, Motrin, Pediaprofen)	Approved	B (1st, 2nd trim.) D (3rd trim.)	L1	
Indomethacin (Indocin)	Approved	B (1st, 2nd trim.) D (3rd trim.)	L3	
Ketorolac (Toradol, Acular)	Approved	B (1st, 2nd trim.) D (3rd trim.)	L2	
Meperidine (Demerol)	Approved	B	L2; L3 early postpartum	<a href="#">6</a>
Methadone (Dolophine)	Approved	B	L3	<a href="#">7</a>
Morphine	Approved	B	L3	<a href="#">8</a>

(Duramorph, Infumorph, Epimorph, MS Contin)				
Nalbuphine (Nubain)	NR	B	L2	
Naproxen (Anaprox, Naprosyn, Naproxen, Aleve)	Approved	B	L3; L4 for chronic use	<a href="#">9</a>
Nefopam (Acupan)	Approved	-	NR	
Oxycodone (Tylox, Percodan, Oxycontin, Roxicet, Endocet, Roxiprin, Percocet)	NR	B	L3	<a href="#">10</a>
Pentosan polysulfate (Elmiron)	NR	B	L2	
Piroxicam (Feldene)	Approved	B	L2	
Propoxyphene (Darvocet N, Propacet, Darvon)	Approved	C	L2	<a href="#">11</a>
Rofecoxib (Vioxx)	<a href="#">Withdrawn from the market</a>			<a href="#">12</a>
Secobarbital (Seconal)	Approved	D	L3	<a href="#">13</a>
Tolmetin (Tolectin)	Approved	C	L3	
Tramadol HCL (Ultram, Ultracet)	NR	C	L3	<a href="#">14</a>
Valdecoxib (Bextra) ( <a href="#">FDA safety info</a> )	<a href="#">Withdrawn from the market</a>			<a href="#">more</a>

\* Per the AAP Policy Statement [The Transfer of Drugs and Other Chemicals Into Human Milk](#), revised September 2001.

- **Approved:** (Table 6) [Maternal Medication Usually Compatible With Breastfeeding](#)
- **Caution:** (Table 5) [Drugs That Have Been Associated With Significant Effects on Some Nursing Infants and Should Be Given to Nursing Mothers With Caution](#)
- **NR:** Not Reviewed. This drug has not yet been reviewed by the AAP.

\*\* Per *Medications' and Mothers' Milk* by Thomas Hale, PhD (2004 edition).

Lactation Risk Categories	Pregnancy Risk Categories
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L1 (safest)</li> <li>• L2 (safer)</li> <li>• L3 (moderately safe)</li> <li>• L4 (possibly hazardous)</li> <li>• L5 (contraindicated)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A (controlled studies show no risk)</li> <li>• B (no evidence of risk in humans)</li> <li>• C (risk cannot be ruled out)</li> <li>• D (positive evidence of risk)</li> <li>• X (contraindicated in pregnancy)</li> </ul>
NR: Not Reviewed. This drug has not yet been reviewed by Hale.	