
what antihistamin can i take while breastfeeding?

Posted by Joody - 2008/01/28 23:14

what antihistamine can i take whilst breastfeeding as i have hay fever? :(:(

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Re:what antihistamin can i take while breastfeeding?

Posted by samy - 2008/02/09 21:31

Mom's use of Benadryl is generally regarded to be compatible with breastfeeding, but always ask your health care provider before taking anything.

Monitor your infant for possible drowsiness if you use an antihistamine. The non-sedating antihistamines (below) are generally preferred and are less likely to sedate baby.

The ingredients of Claritin, Allegra, Actifed (the decongestant pseudoephedrine plus triprolidine) and Seldane have been approved by the AAP for use by nursing moms. Loratadine (Claritin) has been studied and the amount of loratadine that passes into breastmilk is extremely low. We prefer the non-sedating antihistamines (even though they are long-acting) over the sedating allergy medications.

Zyrtec is also generally considered to be compatible with breastfeeding. It is commonly used by nursing moms, although its levels in milk are not known.

Clarinex (desloratadine): Desloratadine is the main metabolite (breakdown product) of Claritin (loratadine). Since Claritin (and thus its active metabolites, too) is considered safe for nursing moms (it's AAP approved, in fact), Clarinex should not be a problem either.

N.B. Milk supply: A common concern is that antihistamines might lower milk supply but there is no current research supporting this belief. If you feel that your supply has decreased, it could simply be a byproduct of decreased nursing frequency or dehydration due to your illness.

If you feel that a medication is the cause of a sudden drop in milk supply, then stop taking (or decrease your use of) the medication - if the med is indeed the cause, then supply should increase again soon after you stop taking it. When using an antihistamine, it can be helpful to step up your fluid intake quite a bit. As with any medication, take it only as needed, and discontinue use as soon as you can.

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