

## Belimumab

Revised: January 15, 2024.

CASRN: 356547-88-1

## Drug Levels and Effects

## Summary of Use during Lactation

Preliminary information and a predictive model indicate that belimumab levels in milk are very low.[1] It is also likely to be partially destroyed in the infant's gastrointestinal tract and absorption by the infant is probably minimal. $[2,3]$ If belimumab is required by the mother, it is not a reason to discontinue breastfeeding. Some professional guidelines consider belimumab to be acceptable during breastfeeding.[4,5] Until more data become available, belimumab should be used with caution during breastfeeding, especially while nursing a newborn or preterm infant. Waiting for at least 2 weeks postpartum to resume therapy may minimize transfer to the infant. [6]

## Drug Levels

Maternal Levels. A postpartum woman with mixed connective tissue disease was started on intravenous belimumab $520 \mathrm{mg}(10 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{kg})$ every 2 weeks for 2 doses, then 520 mg monthly as well as hydroxychloroquine 200 to 400 mg daily. Belimumab milk concentrations were $0.12 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{L}$ at 2 weeks after the first dose and prior to the second dose, $0.17 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{L}$ on the following day, and $0.12 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{L}$ at 7 weeks after the second dose.[7]

Two lactating women with systemic lupus erythematosus who were receiving belimumab 200 mg subcutaneously every 2 weeks donated milk samples postpartum at starting at 3 to 4 days postpartum. Milk concentrations were highest at about 3 days after the dose at about $75 \mathrm{mcg} / \mathrm{L}$ in one woman and about 125 $\mathrm{mcg} / \mathrm{L}$ in the other. At 7 days after the dose, milk levels remained relatively constant in the first woman and decreased to about $90 \mathrm{mcg} / \mathrm{L}$ in the second.[8]

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

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## Effects in Breastfed Infants

A woman with systemic lupus erythematosus was taking belimumab (dose not stated) for 1 year when she became pregnant. She received monthly belimumab infusions during pregnancy and continued postpartum, starting at 2 weeks postpartum. She breastfed her infant (extent not stated). No infant effects were mentioned.[9]

## Effects on Lactation and Breastmilk

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

## References

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## Substance Identification

## Substance Name

Belimumab

## CAS Registry Number

356547-88-1

## Drug Class

Breast Feeding
Lactation

Milk, Human
Antibodies, Monoclonal


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