

NLM Citation: Drugs and Lactation Database (LactMed®) [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; 2006-. Desmopressin. [Updated 2021 Mar 17]. **Bookshelf URL:** https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/



Desmopressin

Revised: March 17, 2021.

CASRN: 16679-58-6

Drug Levels and Effects

Summary of Use during Lactation

Desmopressin from a nasal spray is excreted in negligible amounts into milk and is poorly absorbed orally by the infant, so it appears acceptable to use during breastfeeding. There is no published experience with sublingual desmopressin during breastfeeding. Until more data become available, sublingual desmopressin should be used with caution during breastfeeding, especially while nursing a newborn or preterm infant.

Disclaimer: Information presented in this database is not meant as a substitute for professional judgment. You should consult your healthcare provider for breastfeeding advice related to your particular situation. The U.S. government does not warrant or assume any liability or responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the information on this Site.

Attribution Statement: LactMed is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Drug Levels

Maternal Levels. In a patient who was using intranasal desmopressin 10 mcg twice daily for diabetes insipidus, serum and milk levels of arginine vasopressin were measured after a dose.[1] Milk levels gradually increased from the background level of 1 ng/L to about 1.5 ng/L over the 4-hour observation period.

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

Several cases have been reported of mothers with diabetes insipidus using desmopressin and breastfeeding their infants.[2-4] In one case, the mother discontinued nursing after 2 weeks because of a low milk supply, but this was not clearly drug related.[3] Lactation sometimes improves diabetes insipidus and reduces desmopressin requirements.[2,3]

References

- 1. Burrow GN, Wassenaar W, Robertson GL, et al. DDAVP treatment of diabetes insipidus during pregnacy and the post-partum period. Acta Endocrinol (Copenh). 1981;97:23–5. PubMed PMID: 7223315.
- 2. Hadi HA, Mashini IS, Devoe LD. Diabetes insipidus during pregnancy complicated by preeclampsia. A case report. J Reprod Med. 1985;30:206–8. PubMed PMID: 3999072.
- 3. Hime MC, Richardson JA. Diabetes insipidus and pregnancy. Case report, incidence and review of literature. Obstet Gynecol Surv. 1978;33:375–9. PubMed PMID: 652196.
- 4. Wallia A, Bizhanova A, Huang W, et al. Acute diabetes insipidus mediated by vasopressinase after placental abruption. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2013;98:881–6. PubMed PMID: 23393172.

Substance Identification

Substance Name

Desmopressin

CAS Registry Number

16679-58-6

Drug Class

Breast Feeding

Lactation

Hemostatics

Vasopressins