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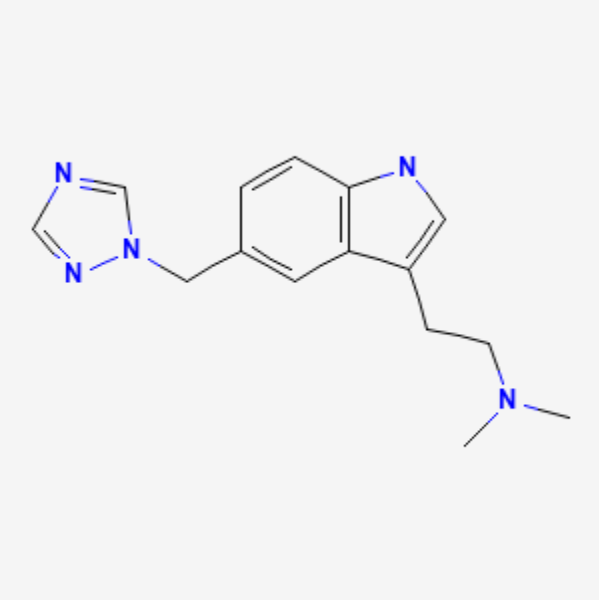
Rizatriptan

Revised: September 15, 2025.

CASRN: 144034-80-0



Drug Levels and Effects

Summary of Use during Lactation

Breastmilk levels of rizatriptan are low and the half-life in milk is relatively short. Amounts ingested by the infant are small and unlikely to affect the nursing infant. Painful, burning nipples and breast pain have been reported after doses of sumatriptan and other triptans. This has occasionally been accompanied by a decrease in milk production.

Drug Levels

Maternal Levels. Five women who were at least 1 month postpartum and used rizatriptan to treat migraine provided one milk sample before their dose, then additional milk samples at 1, 2, 4, 8, 12 and 24 hours after their

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10 mg oral dose. The average peak milk level was 58.4 mcg/L (range 14.6 to 105.6 mcg/L) and occurred 2 hours after the dose in 4 women ad 4 hours after the dose in another. The average milk level was 9 mcg/L (range 2.6 to 14.8 mcg/L) and the average half-life in milk was 2.2 hours (range 1.6 to 3.1 hours). The average daily infant dosage of rizatriptan was 1.3 mcg/kg (range 0.4 to 2.2 mcg/kg) and the weight-adjusted infant dosage averaged 0.9% (range 0.5 to 1.4%) of the maternal dose.[1]

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

A review of four European adverse reaction databases found 26 reported cases of painful, burning nipples, painful breasts, breast engorgement and/or painful milk ejection in women who took a triptan while nursing. Pain was sometimes intense and occasionally led to decreased milk production. Pain generally subsided with time as the drug was eliminated. The authors proposed that triptans may cause vasoconstriction of the arteries in the breast, nipples, and the arteries surrounding the alveoli and milk ducts, causing a painful sensation and a painful milk ejection reflex.[2]

Alternate Drugs to Consider

Eletriptan, Sumatriptan, Zolmitriptan

References

1. Amundsen S, Nordeng H, Fuskevåg OM, et al. Transfer of triptans into human breast milk and estimation of infant drug exposure through breastfeeding. Basic Clin Pharmacol Toxicol 2021;128:795-804. PubMed PMID: 33730376.
2. Conijn M, Maas V, van Tuyl M, et al. Breastfeeding-related adverse drug reactions of triptans: A descriptive analysis using four pharmacovigilance databases. Breastfeed Med 2024;19:645-51. PubMed PMID: 38563407.

Substance Identification

Substance Name

Rizatriptan

CAS Registry Number

144034-80-0

Drug Class

Breast Feeding

Lactation

Milk, Human

Serotonin Receptor Agonists

Serotonin 5-HT1 Receptor Agonists

Triptans

Vasoconstrictor Agents