

TABLE 2

Key medication considerations during pregnancy and breast-feeding.

AGENT	FDA PR* CATEGORY	SAFE DURING PREGNANCY?	SAFE DURING BREAST-FEEDING?
Analgesics and Anti-inflammatories†			
Acetaminophen	B	Yes	Yes
Aspirin	C/D	Avoid	Avoid
Codeine	C	Use with caution	Yes
Glucocorticoids (dexamethasone, prednisone)	C	Avoid‡	Yes
Hydrocodone	C	Use with caution	Use with caution
Ibuprofen§	C/D	Avoid use in third trimester	Yes
Oxycodone	B	Use with caution	Use with caution
Antibiotics¶			
Amoxicillin	B	Yes	Yes
Azithromycin	B	Yes	Yes
Cephalexin	B	Yes	Yes
Chlorhexidine (topical)	B	Yes	Yes
Clarithromycin	C	Use with caution	Use with caution
Clindamycin	B	Yes	Yes
Clotrimazole (topical)	B	Yes	Yes
Doxycycline	D	Avoid	Avoid
Erythromycin	B	Yes	Use with caution
Fluconazole	C/D	Yes (single-dose regimens)	Yes
Metronidazole	B	Yes	Avoid; may give breast milk an unpleasant taste
Nystatin	C	Yes	Yes
Penicillin	B	Yes	Yes
Terconazole (topical)	B	Yes	Yes
Tetracycline	D	Avoid	Avoid
Local Anesthetics			
Articaine	C	Use with caution	Use with caution
Bupivacaine	C	Use with caution	Yes
Lidocaine (with or without epinephrine)	B	Yes	Yes
Mepivacaine (with or without levonordefrin)	C	Use with caution	Yes
Prilocaine	B	Yes	Yes
Benzocaine (topical)	C	Use with caution	Use with caution
Dyclonine (topical)	C	Yes	Yes
Lidocaine (topical)	B	Yes	Yes
Tetracaine (topical)	C	Use with caution	Use with caution
Sedatives			
Benzodiazepines	D/X	Avoid	Avoid
Zaleplon	C	Use with caution	Use with caution
Zolpidem	C	Use with caution	Yes
Emergency Medications			
Albuterol	C	Steroid and β_2 -agonist inhalers are safe	Yes
Diphenhydramine	B	Yes	Avoid
Epinephrine	C	Use with caution	Yes
Flumazenil	C	Use with caution	Use with caution
Naloxone	C	Use with caution	Use with caution
Nitroglycerin	C	Use with caution	Use with caution

* FDA PR: U.S. Food and Drug Administration Pregnancy Risk. See Table 1 for FDA PR category definitions.

† In the case of combination products (such as oxycodone with acetaminophen), the safety with respect to either pregnancy or breast-feeding is dependent on the highest-risk moiety. In the example of oxycodone with acetaminophen, the combination of these two drugs should be used with caution, because the oxycodone moiety carries a higher risk than the acetaminophen moiety.

‡ Oral steroids should not be withheld from patients with acute severe asthma.

§ Ibuprofen is representative of all nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. In breast-feeding patients, avoid cyclooxygenase selective inhibitors such as celecoxib, as few data regarding their safe use in this population are available, and avoid doses of aspirin higher than 100 milligrams because of risk of platelet dysfunction and Reye syndrome.

¶ Antibiotic use during pregnancy: The patient should receive the full adult dose and for the usual length of treatment. Serious infections should be treated aggressively. Penicillins and cephalosporins are considered safe. Use higher-dose regimens (such as cephalexin 500 mg three times per day rather than 250 mg three times per day), as they are cleared from the system more quickly because of the increase in glomerular filtration rate in pregnancy.

Antibiotic use during breast-feeding: These agents may cause altered bowel flora and, thus, diarrhea in the baby. If the infant develops a fever, the clinician should take into account maternal antibiotic treatment.