

Breastfeeding and Medication



Pivmecillinam And Breastfeeding

Pivmecillinam is compatible with normal breastfeeding. As with all antibiotics the nursing may present with loose bowel motions due to temporary lactose intolerance

Pivmecillinam (Selexid™) is an antibiotic within the penicillin group of antibiotics. It should be taken with, or straight after, a meal with plenty of water. It is used to treat urinary tract infections. The tablets should be taken whilst sitting or standing upright so that the tablets don't become stuck in the throat and cause irritation and/or ulcers. The dose for adults is usually initially 400 mg (2 tablets) for 1 dose, then 200 mg every 8 hours to a total of 10 tablets. It is licensed for use in children over the age of 3 months. For children a dose of 5-10mg/kg every 6 hours is recommended but the same dose can be given in three divided doses as a suspension.

Recommendations in prescribing

The BNF states that there is a trace amount in milk, but it is appropriate to use by breastfeeding mothers.

The manufacturer own data (SPC) states that "Lactation Mecillinam is excreted in human milk, but at therapeutic doses of Pivmecillinam no effects on the breast-fed newborns/infants are anticipated. Pivmecillinam can be used during breast-feeding."

Pharmacokinetics

The bioavailability of orally administered pivmecillinam is approximately 60-70%

The elimination half-life of mecillinam (to which pivmecillinam is hydrolysed) is about 1 hour

References

- British National Formulary (BNF)
- Josefsson, K., Bergan, T., Magni, L. et al. Pharmacokinetics of bacmecillinam and pivmecillinam in volunteers. Eur J Clin Pharmacol 23, 249–252 (1982)
- Parsons RL, Hossack GA, Paddock GM. Pharmacokinetics of pivmecillinam. Br J Clin Pharmacol. 1977;4(3):267-273. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2125.1977.tb00711.x

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October 2021 The information on this sheet is based upon my professional experience as a pharmacist with a specialised interest in the safety of drugs in breastmilk, supported by evidence from expert sources. However, I cannot take responsibility for the prescription of medication which remains with the healthcare professionals involved. I am happy to discuss the evidence by email wendy@breastfeeding-and-medication.co.uk

- Patient Info <https://patient.info/medicine/pivmecillinam-for-infection-selexid>
- SPC Pivmecillinam 200mg film-coated tablets
<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/4982/smpc#gref>
- SPS Safety in Lactation: Penicillins (Nov 2020) <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/safety-in-lactation-penicillins/>

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