



from the

# DRUG DESK

A Drug Information Update from the B.C. Drug and Poison Information Centre

**Editor:** Beverly Louis, BSc(Pharm)

**Reviewer:** Laird Birmingham, MD, MHSc, FRCP

**Patient is receiving infliximab 10 mg/kg parenterally for Crohn's Disease. She just had a baby and is wondering about the safety of using infliximab and breastfeeding a newborn. She is thinking of using formula instead of breastfeeding. Is infliximab safe to use in a breastfeeding mother?**

Case reports of infliximab used in breastfeeding mothers suggest that infliximab is undetectable in breast milk.<sup>1-3</sup> Infliximab was also undetectable in the serum of most of the infants studied. Placental transfer was suggested to be the source of the infliximab in the one infant who had infliximab found in their serum.<sup>2</sup> The risk of toxicity to a breastfeeding neonate is thought to be negligible as the infliximab molecule is probably too large to be excreted in breast milk and infliximab is not absorbed orally. The World Congress of Gastroenterology considers infliximab to be compatible with breastfeeding.<sup>4</sup>

## **Conclusion**

Infliximab use in a lactating mother is unlikely to pose a risk to a breastfed infant. Advise the mother that it is safe for her to continue to nurse her child while on infliximab.

**Written By:** Beverly Louis, BSc(Pharm)

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References available upon request.