

Breastfeeding and Medication

ORAL HEALTH TREATMENTS

Are you going to have a dental procedure?

In the vast majority of cases, breastfeeding can resume thereafter.



It is important to keep your teeth and gums healthy. However, there are times when treatments may be needed.



Dental restoration by amalgam (filling)

A filling insertion or replacement may be required. When mercury is removed, some is vaporized by the high-speed drill and a very small amount may be swallowed or inhaled. Passage through breast milk is minute compared to environmental mercury levels.

Local anesthetics

Their passage in the breast milk is low and very little absorbed by the child. Breastfeeding can therefore be continued. Epinephrine, which is sometimes added to reduce bleeding, is unlikely to affect the child because of its molecular properties and short duration of action in the body (half-life).

General anesthesia

The anesthetics used for dental extractions have a very short duration of action. By the time the mother is awake, most of the drugs have been processed and eliminated by the body. Breastfeeding can therefore be continued as soon as the parent wakes up.

***For more details, consult the sheet on anesthesia**



Analgesics

Acetaminophen and/or a usual dose of anti-inflammatory medication can be used.

Antibiotics

Antibiotics in the usual dose can be used. The child may have looser stools than usual.

Bleaching agents

Hydrogen peroxide breaks down into water and oxygen (O₂). Carbamide peroxide, if absorbed, would be broken down to urea and hydrogen peroxide, both of which are naturally found in breast milk. If used as directed, there is no need to discontinue breastfeeding and no special precautions are required.



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