

Is it safe to breast feed her child when the mother received opioid analgesic drugs?

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Exclusive maternal breastfeeding has been recommended for the newborn and the infant by WHO since 2003 and its practice has been on the increase with more than 60% of women (French PNNS 2010). We have evidence that breastfeeding benefits are all the more important as the infant was born before term. There seems to be a contradiction then between the possibility of breastfeeding and the fact of taking medication without causing serious adverse effects in the infant. Nearly all health care professionals agree to propose breastfeeding after a detailed analysis of the benefit/risk balance concerning the medication taken by the mother. But most prescribers have access only to the drug dictionary containing summaries on the product characteristics (SmPC) i.e. the legal marketing authorization data. Codeine, though a molecule authorized by the AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics), had caused the death of a breastfed newborn. This observation has been confirmed in the course of a pharmacovigilance research which underlines 35 cases of brain toxicity due to codeine via breastfeeding. In 2008 our team published a case of neonatal intoxication through propoxyphen. GEGA network presented latest data in Grenoble France October 2011 about mother addiction and risk during pregnancy and breastfeeding. For the neonates It is a priority to obtain a regulatory, coherent and gradual approach from the health authorities concerning drugs and breastfeeding. These data – above all safety data- will allow the prescriber to be confident enough while taking charge of a breastfeeding woman when he must prescribe a drug such as a common analgesic.

Biography

Upon completion of his doctorate in Pharmacology at the University of Paris V René Descartes in 2007 about Risk Management Plan during pregnancy and breastfeeding, Raphael Serreau joined the Center of Clinical Research in Cochin and Necker Hospital in Paris in 2005 where he directed research combining Perinatology and Pharmacology researches. (www.premup.org). This led to the development of a structure in "Institut de Puériculture de Paris" called Medic-AI network. He works also as a permanent scientist in St Antoine Hospital in Paris since 2011.

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