

**NLM Citation:** Drugs and Lactation Database (LactMed®) [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; 2006-. Formoterol. [Updated 2023 Apr 15]. **Bookshelf URL:** https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/



### **Formoterol**

Revised: April 15, 2023.

CASRN: 73573-87-2

# **Drug Levels and Effects**

# **Summary of Use during Lactation**

Although no published data exist on the use of formoterol by inhaler during lactation, data from the related drug, terbutaline, indicate that very little is expected to be excreted into breastmilk.[1-3] The authors of several reviews and an expert panel agree that use of inhaled bronchodilators is acceptable during breastfeeding because of the low bioavailability and maternal serum levels after use.[4-7]

### **Drug Levels**

Maternal Levels. Relevant published information was not found as of the revision date.

*Infant Levels*. Relevant published information was not found as of the revision date.

**Disclaimer:** Information presented in this database is not meant as a substitute for professional judgment. You should consult your healthcare provider for breastfeeding advice related to your particular situation. The U.S. government does not warrant or assume any liability or responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the information on this Site.

Attribution Statement: LactMed is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

#### **Effects in Breastfed Infants**

Relevant published information was not found as of the revision date.

#### **Effects on Lactation and Breastmilk**

Relevant published information was not found as of the revision date.

### **Alternate Drugs to Consider**

Salmeterol

#### References

- 1. Lindberg C, Boréus LO, de Château P, et al. Transfer of terbutaline into breast milk. Eur J Respir Dis Suppl. 1984;134:87–91. PubMed PMID: 6586490.
- 2. Boréus LO, de Château P, Lindberg C, et al. Terbutaline in breast milk. Br J Clin Pharmacol. 1982;13:731–2. [Letter]. PubMed PMID: 7082542.
- 3. Lönnerholm G, Lindström B. Terbutaline excretion into breast milk. Br J Clin Pharmacol. 1982;13:729–30. [Letter]. PubMed PMID: 7082541.
- 4. McDonald CF, Burdon JGW. Asthma in pregnancy and lactation. A position paper for the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand. Med J Aust. 1996;165:485–8. PubMed PMID: 8937369.
- 5. Nelson-Piercy C. Asthma in pregnancy. Thorax. 2001;56:325–8. PubMed PMID: 11254828.
- 6. Taddio A, Ito S. Drugs and breast-feeding. In, Koren G, ed. Maternal-fetal toxicology. A clinician's guide. 3rd ed. New York. Marcel Dekker. 2001:177-32.
- 7. National Institutes of Health. National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. Evidence-based management of sickle cell disease. Expert panel report. 2014.

### **Substance Identification**

#### **Substance Name**

Formoterol

# **CAS Registry Number**

73573-87-2

# **Drug Class**

**Breast Feeding** 

Lactation

Milk, Human

Anti-Asthmatic Agents

**Bronchodilator Agents** 

Beta Adrenergic Agonists