

DON'T SAY STOP LOOK IT UP

Can mothers breastfeed after anaesthesia?

- Breastfeeding can resume once mothers are awake, stable and alert after general anaesthesia
- If the mother cannot feed for a significant period she should be given access to, and help with, a means of expressing milk to minimise risk of mastitis and maintain supply
- Breastfeeding mothers can take perioperative midazolam and dexamethasone. Little data is available on antiemetics - see UKDILAS article "safety in lactation: drugs used in nausea and vertigo" for assessment of risks
- Breastfeeding mothers can take paracetamol and ibuprofen
- Codeine is contraindicated in breastfeeding. Dihydrocodeine and tramadol can be used, warning families of potential symptoms of opiate toxicity in the infant

- UKDILAS

NICE Guidance (Maternal & Child Nutrition, updated 2014) states that the prescriber should not rely solely on the BNF for information on breastfeeding but should use supplementary sources such as the UK Drugs in Lactation Advisory Service [UKDILAS]
www.sps.nhs.uk/ukdilas

#DONT SAY STOP LOOK IT UP

A HIFN, GPIFN
& Breastfeeding Network campaign

