Anesthesia & Breastfeeding: More Often Than Not, They Are Compatible

In this issue, Lee et al. randomized laboring patients to different concentrations of epidural fentanyl. There was no difference in successful breastfeeding outcomes at 6 weeks.

Breastfeeding is important to infant health. Receiving anesthesia should not affect mom's ability to breastfeed, or the safety of her breastmilk.1-4

Midazolam PROCEED

Fentanyl (single dose IV) PROCEED

Morphine Monitor closely

Hydromorphone Monitor closely

Meperidine AVOID

Perioperative Administration

Benzodiazepines

Hypnotics

Opioids

Paralytics

Reversal

Antiemetics

Local anesthetics

Propofol PROCEED

Etomidate PROCEED

Ketamine No Data

Volatile anesthetics PROCEED

Succinylcholine PROCEED

NMBAs PROCEED

Neostigmine/glycopyrrolate PROCEED

Ondansetron PROCEED

Dexamethasone PROCEED

Metoclopramide PROCEED

Lidocaine PROCEED

Bupivacaine PROCEED

“A general principal is that a mother can resume breastfeeding once she is awake, stable, and alert after anesthesia has been given.”2

IV = intravenous; NMBAs = neuromuscular blocking agents.

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