Perianesthetic Considerations for the Breastfeeding Mother
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Abstract

Breastfeeding has been shown to be beneficial in the development of infants, but sometimes, the breastfeeding mother may require anesthesia. It is important for perianesthesia caregivers to understand how the breastfed infant may be affected by the anesthetic medications received by the breastfeeding mother. This article reviews current literature on drug transfer into breast milk and specifically how anesthetic drugs may affect breastfed infants. The pharmacokinetics of drug transfer during lactation is described as well as considerations for perianesthesia providers when caring for breastfeeding patients. The results of this literature review provide evidence that there is little risk to the breastfed infant after the mother receives surgical anesthesia. However, the type of drug, the dosage, the timing of treatment, and the infant's age and health must be taken into consideration.