

Medications Commonly used in Maternal Newborn

Medication	Mechanism of Action/Use	Nursing considerations
Methotrexate	<u>This drug is an immunosuppressant used to treat an ectopic pregnancy by stopping the growth of a fertilized egg.</u>	<u>This drug may cause vomiting. The nurse should talk to the provider about administering an antiemetic and fluids to ensure the patient doesn't become dehydrated.</u>
Mifepristone	<u>This drug is a synthetic steroid and is used to block progesterone to terminate early pregnancy.</u>	<u>Inform the patient to take medication as prescribed and to follow up with their doctor in 7-14 days even if they aren't experiencing any complications.</u>
Rhogam	<u>This drug is an immunoglobulin used to stop a mother with Rh negative blood from making antibodies that will attack the fetus with Rh positive blood.</u>	<u>The mother and the cord blood type of the newborn needs to be conducted before administering the medication. The deltoid muscle is the recommended IM administration site.</u>
Promethazine	<u>This drug is an antihistamine used as a mild sedative during labor.</u>	<u>The nurse should assess the patient for bradycardia or tachycardia.</u>
Pyridoxine and Doxylamine	<u>Pyridoxine (a form of B6) and Doxylamine (an antihistamine) are used together to treat nausea and vomiting during pregnancy.</u>	<u>This drug can cause drowsiness, so the nurse may need to help the patient with ambulation.</u>
Ondansetron	<u>This drug is an antiemetic that can be used during the first trimester of pregnancy to treat morning sickness.</u>	<u>The nurse should make sure the patient is getting adequate fluid intake. The nurse should inform the patient to avoid over the counter cold medications.</u>
Betamethasone	<u>This drug is a corticosteroid used to help fetal lungs develop more quickly.</u>	<u>Fetal lung maturity testing can be done with an amniocentesis to determine whether antenatal corticosteroid treatment is necessary.</u>
Indomethacin	<u>This drug is a tocolytic for a pregnant patient experiencing preterm labor.</u>	<u>Monitor for bleeding.</u>
Magnesium Sulfate	<u>This drug is an anticonvulsant used to prevent and control seizures in women with severe preeclampsia. This drug also prevents uterine contractions in preterm labor.</u>	<u>The nurse should place resuscitation equipment in the room. The nurse should also keep the antidote for magnesium which is calcium gluconate in the room.</u>
Terbutaline Sulfate	<u>This tocolytic drug is used to delay preterm labor although</u>	<u>This drug has been associated with severe and often fatal adverse</u>

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	<u>the FDA warns against this.</u>	<u>reactions. Some examples of the reactions are hypokalemia, pulmonary edema, and myocardial ischemia.</u>
Glyburide	<u>This is antidiabetic medication is used for treatment of gestational diabetes.</u>	<u>Monitor blood or urine for glucose or ketones.</u>
Insulin	<u>This antidiabetic is used to lower blood glucose levels.</u>	<u>Monitor insulin needs during times of stress such as labor and delivery. Keep life support equipment available as well as glucose in case of emergency.</u>
Hydralazine hydrochloride	<u>This sulfonyleureas drug is used as a hypertensive during labor and delivery to reduce pregnancy complications.</u>	<u>The nurse should monitor the patient's blood pressure and baby's vitals. This drug is not recommended unless the benefits outweigh the risks.</u>
Labetalol	<u>This beta blocker is used during labor and delivery to reduce pregnancy complications.</u>	<u>The nurse should monitor the patient's blood pressure.</u>
Nifedipine	<u>This antihypertensive is used to delay preterm labor.</u>	<u>The nurse should monitor the patient for hypotension.</u>
Calcium gluconate	<u>This mineral supplement is used to treat hypocalcemia related to hypoparathyroidism due to rapid growth in pregnancy.</u>	<u>The nurse should ensure that the patient has something to drink, because they may experience a chalky taste.</u>
Misoprostol	<u>This drug is a hormone used to promote premature birth.</u>	<u>The nurse should give this drug with food to decrease diarrhea. The nurse should inform the patient to report any increased bleeding, pain, or fever.</u>
Cervidil	<u>This drug is a hormone used to ripen the cervix in patients who are near their time of delivery or in patients needing to medically induce labor.</u>	<u>The drug should not exceed the recommended dose. The nurse should monitor the patient for disseminated intravascular coagulation, fibrinolysis, anaphylactoid syndrome of pregnancy, uterine hyperstimulation, commencement of labor, sustained uterine contractions, fetal distress, or other fetal or maternal adverse reactions.</u>
Penicillin G	<u>This drug is an antibiotic that can be given during labor to prevent the baby from getting Group B Streptococcal disease.</u>	<u>The nurse should watch for symptoms of bacterial or fungal superinfections.</u>

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	<u>which can cause sepsis.</u>	
Methylergonovine	<u>This drug is a analgesic and uterotonic used to treat and/or prevent postpartum/postabortion hemorrhage caused by uterine atony or subinvolution.</u>	<u>The patient's blood pressure must be taken before administering this drug. The nurse should also inform the patient not to smoke while taking this drug due to nicotine constricting the blood vessels.</u>
Nalbuphine (Nubain)	<u>This drug is a narcotic used to stimulate premature birth.</u>	<u>The nurse should monitor for respiratory depression. The nurse should inform the patient that they may experience withdrawal with this drug.</u>
Naloxone--	<u>This drug is a narcotic used for asphyxia neonatorum.</u>	<u>The nurse should monitor respiratory rate and rhythm.</u>
Fentanyl	<u>This drug is a synthetic opioid used in an epidural for pain relief during labor.</u>	<u>Assist the patient with ambulation. Assess the patient for pain relief.</u>
Ibuprofen	<u>This drug is an antipyretic used to treat fever in postpartum patients.</u>	<u>The nurse should monitor for blurred vision and palpitations.</u>
acetaminophen	<u>This drug is an antipyretic used to treat fever in postpartum patients.</u>	<u>The nurses should monitor liver and renal functions.</u>
oxycodone	<u>This analgesic drug can be used to treat pain after a C-section while the incision heals.</u>	<u>This drug can cause drowsiness, respiratory depression, and even death in infants and is not recommended for mothers who are breastfeeding.</u>
hydrocodone	<u>This drug is an opioid used to treat moderate to severe pain.</u>	<u>This drug may prolong labor if administered during the first stage of labor. This drug may cause respiratory depression in neonate.</u>
ketorolac	<u>This drug is an analgesic used for mild to moderate pain.</u>	<u>The nurse should assess the patient's eyes for redness, swelling, tearing, itching, bleeding, blurred vision, and yellow sclera. Monitor for tinnitus, jaundice, and clay-colored stools.</u>
Hepatitis B vaccine	<u>This vaccine is used to prevent Hepatitis B in infants.</u>	<u>The vaccine should be given within 12 hours of birth to the infant of an infected mother. Parental consent must be obtained.</u>
Erythromycin eye ointment	<u>This antibiotic is legally required to be used as a prophylaxis against Neisseria gonorrhoeae whether their mother is</u>	<u>This drug should not be rinsed from the eyes. It can be wiped from the outer eye after 1 minute. The nurse should monitor the infant for any</u>

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Phytonadione	<p><u>infected with gonorrhea.</u></p> <p><u>This is a vitamin that can be used in prophylaxis and treatment of hemorrhagic disease of a newborn. It can also be given to the newborn before circumcision procedure.</u></p>	<p><u>irritation.</u></p> <p><u>Monitor for signs of bleeding, jaundice, or local inflammation.</u></p>
Prenatal vitamins	<p><u>These vitamins are used to supplement any nutritional gap in the pregnant woman's diet. They can also be beneficial for women who are breastfeeding or trying to conceive.</u></p>	<p><u>Do not take with milk, other dairy products, calcium supplements, or antacids that contain calcium, because calcium can decrease the body's ability to absorb the vitamins.</u></p>
MMR vaccine	<p><u>This vaccine is recommended before a mother gets pregnant.</u></p>	<p><u>If taken during pregnancy, the measles illness may increase the risk of spontaneous abortion or premature delivery.</u></p>
Tetanus & reduced diphtheria toxoids/acellular pertussis vaccine	<p><u>This vaccine is given to mothers during their third trimester in order to pass on antibodies to the baby before birth. With antibodies, the baby is protected from whooping cough for the first few months of life.</u></p>	<p><u>The patient may experience soreness at the site of the shot, redness, body aches, headaches, fever, nausea, chills, and fatigue.</u></p>
Lidocaine mucosal gel	<p><u>This local anesthetic can be used to control pain during a first trimester suction termination of pregnancy.</u></p>	<p><u>This medication can cause serious side effects and should not be used unless the benefits outweigh the risks.</u></p>

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