

C-62 Perioperative Management of Lactating Patients: What Can I Use & How Much?

Moderator(s)/Facilitator(s): Kara Barnett, M.D., Elizabeth Rieth, M.D.

Objective

After completion of this session, the participant will be able to:

- Develop a comprehensive perioperative plan that minimizes lactation disruption while prioritizing maternal and infant safety.

Case Stem Question

A 32-year-old lactating woman presents for cystoscopy and a transurethral resection of a bladder tumor (TURBT) at your ambulatory surgical center. Pre-anesthesia evaluation revealed a history of bladder cancer treated with TURBTs and intravesical immunotherapy. Current breastfeeding of a 5-week-old healthy infant was identified through review of systems screening during the presurgical clinic visit.

Guiding Questions for Discussion

1. How are lactating or breastfeeding patients coming for surgery usually managed at your home institution? Do you have a way to identify these patients preoperatively?
2. What is your level of experience with preparing lactating patients for surgery?
3. What questions and areas of focus are important for the preoperative evaluation regarding lactation?
4. What recommendations would you make regarding this patient's preoperative management of lactation?
5. What references and resources are available to the care team and patient regarding medication safety during lactation?
6. What special considerations would you make regarding the intraoperative anesthetic management for this patient? Are there certain medications typically used during these procedures to avoid? What are the indications to pump and discard breast milk?
7. What postoperative considerations are there for these patients? Are there any medications to avoid?
8. The patient asks you if she can breastfeed after an MRI or CT scan because she needs to have imaging done. How would you advise the patient?
9. If this patient needed to return for a cystectomy, how would your perioperative and postoperative management change for this lactating patient? Should the patient pump and discard while admitted?
10. Suppose the patient would have betadine prep solution for the cystectomy, what concerns would you have?

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