

Commonly Used Medications in Dentistry and Considerations for Pregnant Patients

	Medication	Special Considerations	
ANALGESICS	Acetaminophen	May be used during pregnancy. Recommend low dose and short duration. Only consider opioid medications when acetaminophen is not sufficient.	
	Hydrocodone		
	Oxycodone		
	Morphine		
	Ibuprofen	Avoid use beginning at 20 weeks of gestation. Recommend low dose and short duration.	
	Naproxen		
ANTIBIOTICS	Amoxicillin	May be used during pregnancy.	
	Cephalosporins		
	Clindamycin		
	Penicillin		
	Azithromycin	Use with caution in first trimester.	Safety during first trimester is unclear and conflicting information.
	Metronidazole	Avoid in first trimester.	Use in pregnancy only when there are no alternatives due to conflicting information regarding teratogenicity (cleft lip/palate, congenital hydrocephalus).
	Clarithromycin	Avoid use during pregnancy.	Teratogenic effects (fetal growth restriction, cardiovascular anomalies, cleft palate) seen in animals.
	Ciprofloxacin	Avoid use during pregnancy.	Adverse effects on developing cartilage.
	Levofloxacin		
	Moxifloxacin		
	Tetracycline	Do not use during pregnancy.	Adverse effects on developing teeth and long bones.
	Doxycycline		
SEDATION, NITROUS, or GENERAL ANESTHESIA		Consult with prenatal healthcare provider before using IV sedation or general anesthesia.	
LOCAL ANESTHETICS	Bupivacaine with epinephrine	May be used during pregnancy	
	Lidocaine with epinephrine		
	Mepivacaine without epinephrine		
ANTIMICROBIALS	Chlorhexidine	May be used during pregnancy Use alcohol-free products during pregnancy	
	Cetylpyridinium		
	Xylitol		

Information from Up to Date accessed 11/2023 and Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: A National Consensus Statement – Summary of an Expert Workgroup Meeting 2012