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

In this issue, Lee et al2 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

“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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