

Albuterol Inhalation Solution

ALBUTEROL (SALBUTAMOL) SOLUTION - INHALATION

IMPORTANT NOTE: This is a summary and does not contain all possible information about this product. For complete information about this product or your specific health needs, ask your health care professional. Always seek the advice of your health care professional if you have any questions about this product or your medical condition. This information is not intended as individual medical advice and does not substitute for the knowledge and judgment of your health care professional. This information does not contain any assurances that this product is safe, effective, or appropriate for you.

ALBUTEROL (SALBUTAMOL) SOLUTION - INHALATION

(al-BUE-ter-ol)(sal-BUE-tah-mol) COMMON BRAND NAME(S): Proventil, Ventolin

USES:

Albuterol (also known as salbutamol) is used to treat wheezing and shortness of breath caused by breathing problems such as asthma. Albuterol belongs to a class of drugs known as bronchodilators. It works in the airways by opening breathing passages and relaxing muscles. Controlling symptoms of breathing problems can decrease time lost from work or school.

HOW TO USE:

Read the Patient Information Leaflet provided by your pharmacist before you start using this medication and each time you get a refill. This medication is used with a special machine called a nebulizer that changes the solution to a fine mist that you inhale. Learn all instructions for the use of this medication and the nebulizer. If a child is using this medication, a parent or other responsible adult should supervise the child. If you have any questions, consult your doctor, pharmacist, or respiratory therapist.

This product should be clear and colorless to light yellow. Before using, check this product visually for particles or discoloration. If either is present, do not use the liquid. Using the dropper supplied by the manufacturer, carefully measure the prescribed amount of medication and place in the nebulizer with sterile saline as directed. Gently swirl the nebulizer to mix the solution.

Using a mouthpiece or face mask with the nebulizer, inhale the prescribed dose of medication into your lungs, usually 3 or 4 times daily as needed or as directed by your doctor. Each treatment usually takes about 5 to 15 minutes. Give this medication only through a nebulizer. Do not swallow the solution. Do not mix with other medicines in your nebulizer. To prevent infections, clean the nebulizer and mouthpiece/face mask according to the manufacturer's directions.

Dosage is based on your medical condition, age, body weight, and response to treatment. Do not increase your dose or use it more frequently than prescribed without your doctor's approval.

If you use other asthma drugs (including inhaled medications), ask your doctor about how to properly use this medication with your other asthma medicines.

If this medication stops working well, or if your breathing symptoms become worse, or if you need to use this medication more frequently than usual, seek immediate medical attention.

SIDE EFFECTS:

Nervousness, shaking (tremor), mouth/throat dryness or irritation, cough, dizziness, headache, trouble sleeping, or nausea may occur. If any of these effects persist or worsen, tell your doctor or pharmacist promptly.

Remember that your doctor has prescribed this medication because he or she has judged that the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects. Many people using this medication do not have serious side effects.

Tell your doctor immediately if any of these unlikely but serious side effects occur: fast/pounding heartbeat, muscle cramps/weakness.

Seek immediate medical attention if any of these rare but very serious side effects occur: chest pain, irregular heartbeat.

Rarely, this medication has caused severe (rarely fatal), sudden worsening of breathing problems/asthma (paradoxical bronchospasm). If you experience sudden wheezing, seek immediate medical attention.

A very serious allergic reaction to this drug is rare. However, seek immediate medical attention if you notice any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction, including: rash, itching/swelling (especially of the face/tongue/throat), severe dizziness, trouble breathing. This is not a complete list of possible side effects. If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

In the US -

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088

PRECAUTIONS:

Before taking albuterol, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or if you have had a serious reaction to similar drugs (e.g., metaproterenol, terbutaline); or if you have any other allergies.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: heart problems (e.g., irregular heartbeat, angina, heart attack), high blood pressure, diabetes, low levels of potassium in the blood, seizure, overactive thyroid (hyperthyroidism).

This drug may make you dizzy. Do not drive, use machinery, or do any activity that requires alertness until you are sure you can perform such activities safely. Limit alcoholic beverages.

Before having surgery, tell your doctor or dentist that you are using this medication. Caution is advised when using this drug in older adults since they may be more sensitive to its effects, especially the effects on the heart.

During pregnancy, this medication should be used only when clearly needed. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor.

It is not known whether this drug passes into breast milk. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

DRUG INTERACTIONS:

Your doctor or pharmacist may already be aware of any possible drug interactions and may be monitoring you for them. Do not start, stop, or change the dosage of any medicine before checking with your doctor or pharmacist first.

Avoid taking MAO inhibitors (e.g., furazolidone, isocarboxazid, linezolid, moclobemide, phenelzine, procarbazine, rasagiline, selegiline, tranylcypromine) within 2 weeks before, during, or after treatment with this medication. In some cases a serious, possibly fatal drug interaction may occur.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist of all prescription and nonprescription/herbal products you may use, especially of: adrenaline-like drugs (e.g., ephedrine, epinephrine), beta blockers (e.g., atenolol, propranolol), digoxin, tricyclic antidepressants (e.g., amitriptyline, nortriptyline), "water pills" (diuretics such as furosemide, hydrochlorothiazide).

Check the labels on all your medicines (e.g., cough-and-cold products, diet aids) because they may contain ingredients that could increase heart rate or blood pressure. Ask your pharmacist about using those products safely.

This document does not contain all possible interactions. Therefore, before using this product, tell your doctor or pharmacist of all the products you use. Keep a list of all your medications with you, and share the list with your doctor and pharmacist.

OVERDOSE:

If overdose is suspected, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately. US residents can call the US National Poison Hotline at 1-800-222-1222

NOTES:

Do not share this medication with others.

Laboratory and/or medical tests (e.g., pulmonary function tests, blood pressure, levels of potassium in the blood) may be performed periodically to monitor your progress or check for side effects. Consult your doctor for more details.

MISSED DOSE:

If you are using this medication on a prescribed schedule and miss a dose, use it as soon as you remember. If it is near the time of the next dose, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to catch up.

STORAGE:

Store the US product at room temperature or in the refrigerator between 36-77 degrees F (2-25 degrees C) away from light.

Do not store in the bathroom. Keep all medicines away from children and pets.

Do not flush medications down the toilet or pour them into a drain unless instructed to do so. Properly discard this product when it is expired or no longer needed. Consult your pharmacist or local waste disposal company for more details about how to safely discard your product.

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