

# Serevent (Long Acting Bronchodilator)

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BRAND NAME	GENERIC NAME	DOSAGE FORM
Serevent®	Salmeterol	Metered-Dose Inhaler (MDI)

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Salmeterol is a “**preventer**” asthma drug known as a long-acting’ bronchodilator. Like your “reliever” inhaler, it makes breathing easier by opening the small air passages in the lungs. It helps them remain open and relaxed for, 12 hours, rather than just the 4 to 6 hours your short-acting reliever lasts.

### **Long term control: NOT quick-Relief**

Salmeterol is a bronchodilator with a long duration of action, but a slow onset. It takes time to begin working so you may not feel immediate relief after taking this medication. If you have difficulty breathing, tightness, wheezing, or coughing and need relief, use the “reliever” inhaler your doctor, has prescribed for you

Ask you doctor about providing you with a **written Asthma Action Plan**, which allows you to adjust your medication according to your symptoms and peak-flow measurements.

**Salmeterol should not be taken more than twice daily.** It must always be taken together with an anti-inflammatory medication such as a corticosteroid. **You should not reduce or stop any other medicine** unless directed to do so by your doctor.

### **SIDE EFFECTS:**

Very occasionally some people feel a little shaky, or have a headache, or notice their heart is beating faster than usual just after taking their dose. These effects usually disappear by themselves within 1 - 2 weeks of treatment. If any side effects bother you or if they continue be sure to tell your doctor.

### **MISSED DOSES:**

If you miss a dose of your twice-daily maintenance treatment, and remember within 6 hours, you should take your usual dose as soon as possible, then go back to your regular schedule. If it is more than 6 hours when you remember, do not take the missed dose. Just take the next dose on time.