

Short Acting Bronchodilator Inhaler

BRAND NAME	GENERIC-NAME	DOSAGE FORM
Bricanyl@	Terbutaline	Turbuhaler (dry powder inhaler)
Ventolin HFA@, Airomir@, etc.	Salbutamol	Metered-Dose Inhaler (MDI)
Ventolin Diskus@		Diskus dry powder inhaler
Berotec@	Fenoterol	Metered-Dose Inhaler (MDI)

Salbutamol is a "**reliever**" asthma drug known as a short-acting bronchodilator. It works quickly to relieve asthma symptoms by relaxing smooth muscles around the airways and relieving bronchospasm. Its effect lasts for only 4 to 6 hours.

Use this inhaler if you have difficulty breathing, tightness, wheezing, or coughing and need relief. **Call your doctor or go to the Emergency Department immediately if the effect lasts for less than 3 hours or if you notice a sudden worsening of your shortness of breath.**

If you require your reliever inhaler more than 3 times per week, talk to your doctor. It is a sign that your asthma is poorly controlled. You may require a "preventer" asthma medication or if you are already using a "preventer", the dose may need to be adjusted.

Ask your 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.

SIDE EFFECTS:

Side effects are usually very infrequent and mild. Very occasionally some people feel a little shaky, or have a headache, or notice their heart is beating faster than usual just after taking a dose. These effects usually wear off within a few hours. If any side effects bother you or if they continue, be sure to tell your doctor.

MISSED DOSES:

This medicine is usually used on an as needed basis to relieve asthma symptoms. If your doctor told you to use your inhaler regularly every day, and you forget a dose, do not worry; just inhale the next dose when it is due or if you become wheezy.