

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

SALBUTAMOL

ABOUT your medicine

Your doctor has prescribed salbutamol for you. This medicine comes in four different dosage forms – tablets, syrup, inhalers & inhalation solution.

Salbutamol works quickly to open up the air passages (bronchodilator) to improve airflow in & out of your lungs. Salbutamol can be taken orally or inhaled directly into the lungs for managing symptoms of asthma (e.g. wheezing, chest tightness, cough, breathlessness). Salbutamol can also be used to provide relief for patients with bronchitis, breathing problems, or before exercise to keep your air passages open if you have a tendency to wheeze or have difficulty breathing whenever you exert yourself.

HOW should I take the medicine?

Your doctor will determine the amount of medicine you should take based on the severity of your condition. Take this medicine in the dose prescribed by your doctor.

Consult your pharmacist if you are not sure of the correct way to take your medicine.

Oral tablets/ Syrup

Do not take more than the stated amount. It may be taken before or after meals. Any sustained release preparations should be swallowed whole & not crushed or chewed.

Inhaler

The inhaler may be used daily or when necessary to relief symptoms of breathlessness, cough or wheezing whenever they set in.

Be sure to adhere to the intended administration instructions given by your doctor. If you are using more than one puff, be sure to administer the second puff about 1 minute after the first puff. Remember to prime your inhaler whenever you start using a new inhaler. The last few sprays do not contain any medicine.

For the treatment of asthma, the usual dose is one to two puffs three to four times daily. There should be a minimum of four hours between two consecutive doses. Do not take more than eight puffs in a day. Do inform your doctor if you have been using your inhaler more frequently than before as this could mean that your asthma condition needs to be reviewed.

Inhalation solution

Salbutamol Inhalation solution is administered via a nebuliser, a device that breaks up the inhalation liquid into tiny droplets so that it can be inhaled into the lungs through a breathing mask. Salbutamol inhalation solution may be given alone or together with Ipratropium inhalation solution. It may be given either every 4 - 6 hours, or continuously, depending on the severity of your condition.

What should I do if **I FORGET** a dose?

If you miss a dose or forget to take your medicine, take it as soon as you can. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then to take the medicine and skip the missed dose. Do not double your dose or take extra medicine to make up for a missed dose. If you have missed several doses, please call your physician to check what you should do.

Keep all medication out of reach of children

What are the possible **SIDE-EFFECTS** of the medicine?

As with all other medicines, this medicine has some side-effects. These may include:

Cardiovascular

- Tremor, especially in your hands
- Heart beating faster than normal or irregularly
- Flushing & warmth sensation in the face & neck

Nervous system

- Feeling anxious, or difficulty in sleeping

Note: You may notice the above side-effects if you accidentally take too much of the medicine. These effects usually wear off in a few hours time, but you should still tell your doctor as soon as possible.

Musculoskeletal

- Tenseness & muscular cramps

Local effects

- Dry mouth or mouth & throat irritation (especially with the use of inhaler. You may rinse your mouth after use to help relieve this problem).

These side-effects are mostly short-lived & usually go away with time. However, if any of them are still bothering you after some time, you should inform your doctor.

Discard all medication that has expired or is no longer required

What **PRECAUTIONS** should I take?

Inform your doctor and pharmacist if

- you have other medical conditions, especially thyroid problems, heart problems, high blood pressure, diabetes mellitus or glaucoma.
- you are already taking some other medicines, herbal preparations, nutritional products or vitamin supplements.
- you must tell your doctor if you are allergic to any other medicines, or if you develop an allergy while taking this medicine. The symptoms of a drug allergy include one or more of the following: swollen face/eyes/lips, difficulty in breathing or widespread itchy skin rashes.
- you are breast-feeding, pregnant or likely to become pregnant during the course of this treatment.

How should **I STORE** the medicine?

Store the medicine in a dry place at room temperature, away from heat and direct light. Do not refrigerate your medicines unless instructed to do so.

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The information provided in this publication is meant purely for educational purposes and may not be used as a substitute for medical diagnosis or treatment. You should seek the advice of your doctor or a qualified healthcare provider before starting any treatment or if you have any questions related to your health, physical fitness or medical conditions.

Information is correct at time of printing and subject to revision without prior notice.

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