



[Home](#)

2. Albuterol

Albuterol Inhalation

Pronunciation: *al-BYOO-ter-all*

Generic name: albuterol inhalation

Brand names: [ProAir HFA](#), [ProAir RespiClick](#), [Proventil HFA](#), [Ventolin HFA](#), [AccuNeb](#)

Drug class: [Adrenergic bronchodilators](#)

Medically reviewed by [Kaci Durbin, MD](#). Last updated on Jan 6, 2025.

[Uses](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Side effects](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

What is albuterol inhalation?

Albuterol is a bronchodilator that relaxes muscles in the airways and increases air flow to the lungs.

Albuterol inhalation is used to treat or prevent bronchospasm, or narrowing of the airways in the lungs, in people with asthma or certain types of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). It is also used to prevent exercise-induced bronchospasm.

Albuterol inhalation is for use in adults and children who are at least 4 years old. **Always follow your doctor's directions when giving albuterol to a child.**

Warnings

It is important to keep albuterol on hand at all times. Get your prescription refilled before you run out of medicine completely. Keep using all of your other medications as prescribed by your doctor.

Talk with your doctor if any of your asthma medications do not seem to work as well in treating or preventing attacks. If it seems like you need to use more of any of your medications in a 24-hour period, talk with your doctor. An increased need for medication could be an early sign of a serious asthma attack.

Only use albuterol as prescribed by your physician. An overdose of albuterol can be fatal. Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222. An overdose of albuterol can be fatal. Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use this medicine if you are allergic to albuterol. You should not use **ProAir RespiClick** if you are allergic to milk proteins.

Albuterol may increase the risk of death or hospitalization in people with asthma, but the risk in people with

obstructive airway disease or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is not known.

To make sure albuterol inhalation is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have:

- heart disease, high blood pressure, congestive heart failure;
- a heart rhythm disorder;
- a seizure disorder such as epilepsy;
- diabetes;
- overactive thyroid; or
- low levels of potassium in your blood.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known whether albuterol will harm an unborn baby. However, having uncontrolled asthma during pregnancy may increase the risk of premature birth, low birth weight, or eclampsia (dangerously high blood pressure that can lead to medical problems in both mother and baby). The benefit of preventing bronchospasm may outweigh any risks to the baby.

If you are pregnant, your name may be listed on a pregnancy registry to track the effects of albuterol on the baby.

It may not be safe to breastfeed while using this medicine. Ask your doctor about any risk.

 [Albuterol pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

How should I use albuterol inhalation?

Use albuterol inhalation exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow all directions on your prescription label. Do not use albuterol inhalation in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended.

Read all patient information, medication guides, and instruction sheets provided to you. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions.

You may need to prime your albuterol inhaler device before the first use. Your medicine comes with directions for priming if needed. You may also need to shake your albuterol device just before each use.

Keeping your inhaler clean is important to ensure you are receiving the medication. Clean the plastic actuator with the canister removed at least once a week. Your medicine comes with directions for properly cleaning your device.

Follow all medication instructions very carefully.

Do not allow a young child to use albuterol inhalation without help from an adult.

The usual dose of albuterol inhalation is 2 inhalations every 4 to 6 hours. To prevent exercise-induced bronchospasm, use 2 inhalations 15 to 30 minutes before you exercise. The effects of albuterol inhalation should last about 4 to 6 hours.

Seek medical attention if you think your asthma medications are not working as well. An increased need for medication could be an early sign of a serious asthma attack.

Use the dose counter on your albuterol inhaler device and get your prescription refilled before you run out of medicine completely. Always use the new inhaler device provided with your refill. Do not float a medicine canister in water to see if it is empty.

ProAir HFA, Proventil HFA, or Ventolin HFA must be shaken before each use. You do not need to shake **ProAir RespiClick** before using.

Follow all product instructions on how to clean your albuterol inhaler device and mouthpiece. Do not try to clean or take apart the ProAir RespiClick inhaler device.

Asthma is often treated with a combination of drugs. Use all medications as directed by your doctor. Read the medication guide or patient instructions provided with each medication. Do not change your doses or medication schedule without your doctor's advice.

Store at room temperature away from moisture, heat, or cold temperatures.

Keep the albuterol canister away from open flame or high heat, such as in a car on a hot day. The canister may explode if it gets too hot. Do not puncture or burn an empty inhaler canister.

 [Detailed Albuterol dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Use the missed dose as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose. Do not use extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222. **An overdose of albuterol can be fatal.**

Overdose symptoms may include dry mouth, tremors, chest pain, fast or irregular heartbeat, nausea, general ill feeling, seizure (convulsions), feeling light-headed or fainting.

What should I avoid while using albuterol inhalation?

Rinse with water if this medicine gets in your eyes.

Albuterol inhalation side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to albuterol**: hives; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Call your doctor at once if you have:

- wheezing, choking, or other breathing problems after using this medicine;
- chest pain, fast heart rate, pounding heartbeats or fluttering in your chest;
- pain or burning when you urinate;
- increased thirst, increased urination, hunger, dry mouth, fruity breath odor, drowsiness, dry skin, blurred vision, weight loss; or
- signs of low potassium - leg cramps, constipation, irregular heartbeats, fluttering in your chest, extreme thirst,

increased urination, numbness or tingling, muscle weakness or limp feeling.

Common albuterol side effects may include:

- chest pain, fast or pounding heartbeats;
- upset stomach, vomiting;
- painful urination;
- dizziness;
- feeling shaky or nervous;
- headache, back pain, body aches; or
- cough, sore throat, sinus pain, runny or stuffy nose.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Albuterol side effects](#) (more detail)

Related/similar drugs

Breztri Aerosphere

Breztri

(budesonide/glycopyrrolate/formoterol fumarate) is a combination inhaler that may be used ...

Reviews & ratings

6.9 / 10

[119 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Xolair

Xolair injection (omalizumab) is used to reduce the risk of severe food allergy reactions ...

Reviews & ratings

7.5 / 10

[229 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

FEATURED

Dupixent

Dupixent may be used to treat eczema, eosinophilic or oral-

corticosteroid-dependent asthma,
chronic ...

Reviews & ratings

7.2 / 10

[499 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Methylprednisolone

Methylprednisolone is used to treat conditions such as allergies, arthritis, lupus and ulcerative ...

Reviews & ratings

7.1 / 10

[484 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Azithromycin

Azithromycin is an antibiotic used to treat many different types of infections caused by bacteria ...

Reviews & ratings

6.8 / 10

[1,306 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Montelukast

Montelukast is a daily oral medication used to prevent asthma attacks, exercise-induced ...

Reviews & ratings

5.6 / 10

[571 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Doxycycline

Doxycycline is a tetracycline antibiotic used to treat many different bacterial infections such as ...

Reviews & ratings

6.4 / 10

[1,635 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Amoxicillin

Amoxicillin is a penicillin antibiotic that fights bacteria. It is used to treat many types of ...

Reviews & ratings

6.4 / 10

[366 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Prednisone

Prednisone is used to treat allergic disorders, ulcerative colitis, psoriasis and arthritis. Learn ...

Reviews & ratings

7.5 / 10

[867 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

What other drugs will affect albuterol inhalation?

Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any you start or stop using, especially:

- any other inhaled medicines or bronchodilators;
- digoxin;
- a diuretic or "water pill";
- an antidepressant - amitriptyline, desipramine, imipramine, doxepin, nortriptyline, and others;
- a beta blocker - atenolol, carvedilol, labetalol, metoprolol, propranolol, sotalol, and others; or
- a MAO inhibitor - isocarboxazid, linezolid, phenelzine, rasagiline, selegiline, tranylcypromine, and others or methylene blue injection

This list is not complete. Other drugs may interact with albuterol inhalation, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products. Not all possible interactions are listed in this medication guide.

 [Albuterol drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does albuterol interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

albuterol

+

Enter a drug name

Add

Popular FAQ

- Can asthma inhalers cause a sore throat?

▼
- Can you use an expired albuterol inhaler?

▼

More FAQ

- [Does either Ventolin or albuterol contain steroids?](#)
- [Does coffee help with asthma?](#)
- [What is albuterol sulfate and can I take it if I'm allergic to sulfa?](#)
- [How do you use the ProAir Digihaler?](#)

[View more FAQ...](#)

References

- [Albuterol Product Label](#)

More about albuterol

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(387\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Latest FDA alerts \(6\)](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [Patient tips](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)

- [Support group](#)
- [Drug class: adrenergic bronchodilators](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

Patient resources

- [Albuterol \(Oral\) advanced reading](#)

Other brands

[Ventolin HFA](#), [Ventolin](#), [ProAir HFA](#), [Proventil](#), ... +6 more

Professional resources

- [Albuterol Sulfate, Levalbuterol Hydrochloride, Levalbuterol Tartrate \(Systemic, Oral Inhalation\) monograph](#)
- [Albuterol \(FDA\)](#)
- [Albuterol Aerosol \(FDA\)](#)
- [Albuterol Extended-Release Tablets \(FDA\)](#)
- [Albuterol Inhalation Solution \(FDA\)](#)

Other brands

[Ventolin](#), [ProAir HFA](#), [Proventil HFA](#), [ProAir Digihaler](#), [ProAir RespiClick](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Bronchiectasis](#)
- [Asthma, acute](#)
- [Bronchospasm Prophylaxis](#)
- [Asthma, Maintenance](#)

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use albuterol only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.


[Medical Disclaimer](#)

Copyright 1996-2025 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 10.01.

Availability

Rx Prescription only


Pregnancy & Lactation

 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*

N/A Not a controlled drug

Approval History

 Drug history at FDA



User Reviews & Ratings

3.2 / 10

[387 Reviews](#)

Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



About

[About Drugs.com](#)

[Advertising policy](#)

[Attribution & citations](#)

Terms & privacy

[Terms of use](#)

[Editorial policy](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

Support

[Help center](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Contact us](#)



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

Drugs.com provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Ad Choices

ADVERTISEMENT



