


Section: Drug Reference
Subject: ALBUTEROL (PROVENTIL®)
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Albuterol

1. CLASSIFICATION
 - a. Sympathomemetic Bronchodilator
2. ACTIONS / DESCRIPTIONS
 - a. Bronchodilator that stimulates beta₂ receptors
 - b. Relaxes bronchial smooth muscles
 - c. Minimal vasoconstriction
3. INDICATIONS
 - a. Asthma
 - b. Emphysema
 - c. Bronchospasm from any source
 - d. Inhalation of hot smoke and gases
4. CONTRAINDICATIONS
 - a. Contraindicated in patients with hypersensitivity to drug or its ingredients.
5. PRECAUTIONS
 - a. Heart rate may increase because β₂-adrenergic receptors also occur in the heart at concentrations of 10–50%.
6. ADVERSE REACTIONS
 - a. Restlessness and anxiety
 - b. May exacerbate angina and cause arrhythmias
 - c. Increased heart rate and blood pressure
7. DRUG ACTION TIME
 - a. Onset: 5 – 15 minutes
 - b. Duration: 3 – 6 hours
8. INFORMATIONAL POINTS
 - a. Often used in combination with ipratropium bromide
 - b. Monitor peak volume
 - c. Long term use will cause down regulation of receptors
 - d. Patient's wheezing may initially become louder upon administration
 - e. For patients with poor tidal volume consider an in-line nebulizer
 - f. Expect poor effectiveness for patients on beta-blockers
 - g. Used in compartment syndrome for K⁺ effect (forces K⁺ back into cells)
 - h. Make sure the patient knows the difference between the rescue inhaler and steroid inhaler
 - i. ET_{CO}₂ may be normal (40) with moderate dyspnea
 - j. ET_{CO}₂ has shark fin appearance with bronchospasm