



What's my Drug?

Salbutamol is mainly used to control asthma. It works by opening the airways, to make breathing more easy. This inhaler is called a 'reliever' because it relieves asthma symptoms quickly. It can also be used to prevent asthma symptoms from happening, for example before exercise.

How to use it: Using inhalers effectively isn't as easy as it might look. There are many different types of inhalers. Carefully follow the instructions that come with your particular device. If you are not sure how to use the inhaler correctly ask your health professional. A dose lasts for about 3 to 5 hours, and the benefit is usually felt within 2 or 3 minutes. Tell your health professional if a dose does not give relief from asthma for at least 3 hours. Always make sure the inhaler is clean and the mouthpiece is clear before using it. You do not want to inhale any objects or debris.

Possible side effects include: A fine tremor of the hands, fast heart rate and possibly palpitations, sleep disturbance, and headache. You could get muscle cramps. Blood sugar (glucose) levels could go up. If you have diabetes check this with your doctor.

Warnings and Cautions: If your asthma symptoms don't get better after using this inhaler, or if your symptoms get worse, contact a health professional. If you need to use the inhaler more than twice per week, not counting doses that you take to prevent problems before exercise, because of wheezing contact your doctor because this could be a sign that you need a change to your treatment. Make sure to keep track of how many doses are left in your inhaler. You do not want to run out before getting a new one. 'Reliever' inhalers like this one must not be relied on as your only inhaler but may be used if you also regularly use an asthma 'preventer' treatment. Make sure to read the Product Information Leaflet that comes with this medication for a full list of possible side effects. For women: talk to your doctor if you plan to use this medicine during pregnancy or breastfeeding.

Note: Old inhalers should not be disposed of with general household waste. To protect the environment, please return them to your pharmacy.