

Medicines for Lung Disease



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

There are many medicines used to treat lung disease. Some medicines are **short acting**, taken to prevent or ease bronchospasms of the airways, and others are **long acting**, taken on a set schedule to prevent breathing problems.

Place a mark next to the medicines you are taking. If you need help, ask a member of your health care team. Please ask if you would like more written information about your medicines or if you have questions about any medicine you are taking or its side effects.

Remember to use your short acting inhaler or nebulizer treatment before exercise as directed.

Bronchodilators: beta-agonists and anti-cholinergics

Beta-agonists: These medicines relax and open the air passages in your lungs to help make breathing easier. **Some medicines in this group include:**

- **Short acting medicines that work in 5 to 15 minutes:**
 - Accuneb, Novaplus Ventolin HFA, ProAir HFA, Proventil, Proventil HFA, ReliOn Ventolin HFA and Ventolin HFA (generic name: albuterol) to be used with a nebulizer or a metered dose inhaler (MDI)
 - Alupent (generic name: metaproterenol) to be used with a nebulizer or a metered dose inhaler (MDI)
 - Xopenex, Xopenex HFA and Xopenex Pediatric (generic name: levalbuterol) to be used with a nebulizer or a metered dose inhaler (MDI)
- **Long acting medicines that work in 15 minutes to 2 hours:**
 - Arcapta Neohaler (generic name: indacaterol) to be used with a dry powder inhaler (DPI)
 - Foradil Aerolizer, Perforomist (generic name: formoterol) to be used with a dry powder inhaler (DPI) or a nebulizer
 - Serevent Diskus (generic name: salmeterol) to be used with a dry powder inhaler (DPI)

Anti-cholinergics: These medicines are used on a regular schedule to prevent bronchospasms, but they are not used when a quick response is needed. **Some medicines in this group include:**

- **Short acting medicines that work in 5 to 15 minutes:**
 - Atrovent HFA (generic name: ipratropium) to be used with a metered dose inhaler (MDI)
- **Long acting medicines that work in 15 minutes to 2 hours:**
 - Spiriva (generic name: tiotropium) to be used with a dry powder inhaler (DPI)
 - Tudorza Pressair (generic name: aclidinium bromide) to be used with a dry powder inhaler (DPI)

Combination beta-agonist and anti-cholinergic: These medicines combine the two types of bronchodilators. **Some medicines in this group include:**

- **Short acting medicines that work in 5 to 15 minutes:**
 - Combivent Respimat and Duoneb (generic name: albuterol sulfate/ipratropium bromide) to be used with an inhaler and a nebulizer
- **Long acting medicines that work in 15 minutes to 2 hours:**
 - Anoro Ellipta (generic name: umeclidinium/vilanterol) to be used with a dry powder inhaler (DPI)

Anti-inflammatory medicines: inhaled and systemic corticosteroids

Inhaled corticosteroids: These medicines prevent asthma attacks and reduce inflammation of the airways. They are like hormones made in your body. Rinse your mouth with water and spit the water out after using these inhalers to prevent mouth sores or white patches called thrush in the mouth or throat. **Some medicines in this group include:**

- Aerobid, Aerobid M and Aerobid-M (generic name: flunisolide) to be used with a metered dose inhaler (MDI)
- Alvesco (generic name: ciclesonide) to be used with a metered dose inhaler (MDI)
- Asmanex Twisthaler (generic name: mometasone furoate) to be used with a dry powder inhaler (DPI)
- Beclovent, QVAR and Qvar (generic name: beclomethasone) to be used with a metered dose inhaler (MDI)
- Flovent, Flovent Diskus and Flovent HFA (generic name: fluticasone) to be used with a metered dose inhaler (MDI) or dry powder inhaler (DPI)
- Pulmicort Flexhaler and Pulmicort Respules (generic name: budesonide) to be used with a dry powder inhaler (DPI) or a nebulizer

Systemic corticosteroids: These medicines treat flare-ups, also called exacerbations. These medicines are like hormones made in your body. They are most often used for a short time. **Some medicines in this group include:**

- Deltasone, Predni SONE Intensol, Prednicot, Rayos and Sterapred DS (generic name: prednisone) to be taken as a liquid or pill
- Medrol (generic name: methylprednisolone) to be taken as a pill

Combination inhaled medicines: corticosteroids and long acting beta-agonists (LABA) compounds

These medicines have 2 different kinds of medicines combined in the inhaler. They work together to treat lung disease and are taken as scheduled doses. **Some medicines in this group include:**

- Symbicort (generic name: budesonide/formoterol fumarate)
- Breo Ellipta (generic name: fluticasone furoate/vilanterol trifenate)
- Advair Diskus, Advair Diskus 100/50, Advair Diskus 250/50, Advair Diskus 500/50 and Advair HFA (generic name: fluticasone propionate/salmeterol xinafoate)
- Dulera (generic name: formoterol fumarate/mometasone furoate)

Methylxanthines

These medicines open the airways and make it easier to breathe. **Some medicines in this group include:**

- Elixophyllin, Senophylline, Theo-24, Theo-Dur and Uniphyll (generic name: theophylline) to be taken as a pill, capsule or liquid.

Leukotriene modifiers

These medicines stabilize immune responses for people with asthma. They are taken on a daily schedule to treat asthma and prevent attacks, but they will not stop an asthma attack once it starts. **Some medicines in this group include:**

- Singulair (generic name: montelukast) to be taken as a packet, pill or chewable tablet
- Accolate (generic name: zafirlukast) to be taken as a pill
- Zyflo and Zyflo CR (generic name: zileuton) to be taken as a pill

Talk to your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

The Library for Health Information is available to help you find more health information at (614) 293-3707 or e-mail: health-info@osu.edu.