

Inhaler drugs for chronic lung disease

This handout describes inhaler drugs used for chronic lung disease and their side effects.

Short-acting beta agonists

- Circle the drug that you take
 - Albuterol (AccuNeb, Ventolin, or Proventil)
 - Bitolterol (Tornalate)
 - Pirbuterol (Maxair)
 - Terbutaline (Brethine)
- Helps right away
- 2 inhalations last 4 to 6 hours
- Use when having attack of breathlessness
- Use before you exercise
- If you use it more than a few times a week, call your doctor
- If you have bad side effects, call your doctor

Short-acting anti-cholinergics

- Circle the drug that you take
 - Ipratropium (Atrovent)
- 1 or 2 inhalations last 4 to 6 hours
- If you have side effects, call your doctor

Long-acting beta agonists

- Circle the drug that you take
 - Salmeterol (Serevent)
 - Do not use with your spacer
 - Formoterol (Foradil)
 - Do not use with your spacer
- Helps you have fewer attacks of breathlessness
- 1 or 2 inhalations last 12 hours
- Take every day
 - It may take a few weeks to start to work
 - Do not stop when it starts working
 - Keep taking it unless your doctor tells you to stop
- If you have side effects, call your doctor
- Do not swallow capsules

Long-acting anti-cholinergics

- Tiotropium (Spiriva)
- 1 or 2 inhalations last up to 24 hours
- Take 2 times a day, every day
- If you have bad side effects, call your doctor

Side effects of beta agonists or anti-cholinergics

- Tremor or shaking
- Sick to stomach or nausea
- Heart beats very fast
- Heartbeats that are not normal
- Nervous feeling
- Sore throat or cough

Corticosteroid inhaler drugs

- Circle the drug that you take
 - Beclomethasone (QVAR)
 - Budesonide (Pulmicort)
 - Flunisolide (AeroBid)
 - Fluticasone (Flovent)
 - Triamcinolone (Azmacort)
- Helps reduce swelling in air passages
- Take every day if prescribed (ask your doctor)

Side effects of corticosteroids

- Headache
- Dry mouth or mouth infection
- May get infections more easily
- If you have side effects, call your doctor

The content in this letter is intended as general information and may not apply to you or your condition. Talk to your doctor about how to best use this information and how to take care of your medical condition. This information is not intended to provide or replace professional medical advice or services.
