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Ventolin HFA (albuterol sulfate) - Drug Summary

GlaxoSmithKline LLC

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Ventolin HFA
(albuterol sulfate)

THERAPEUTIC CLASS

Beta₂ agonist

DEA CLASS

RX

ADULT DOSAGE & INDICATIONS

Bronchospasm

Treatment/Prevention:

2 inh q4-6h or 1 inh q4h

Exercise-Induced Bronchospasm

Prevention:

2 inh 15-30 min before exercise

PEDIATRIC DOSAGE & INDICATIONS

Bronchospasm

Treatment/Prevention:
≥4 Years:

2 inh q4-6h or 1 inh q4h

Exercise-Induced Bronchospasm

Prevention:
≥4 Years:

2 inh 15-30 min before exercise

DOSING CONSIDERATIONS

Elderly

Start at lower end of dosing range

ADMINISTRATION

Oral inh route

Shake well before each spray

Priming

Before using for 1st time, if inhaler has not been used for >2 weeks, or if it has been dropped, prime inhaler by releasing 4 sprays into air, away from face

Refer to PI for further instructions on proper use


HOW SUPPLIED

MDI: 90mcg of albuterol base/inh [60, 200 inhalations]

WARNINGS/PRECAUTIONS

D/C if paradoxical bronchospasm following dosing or if cardiovascular (CV) effects occur. More doses than usual may be a marker of destabilization of asthma and may require reevaluation of the patient and treatment regimen; give special consideration to the possible need for anti-inflammatory treatment (eg, corticosteroids). ECG

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changes and immediate hypersensitivity reactions, including anaphylaxis, may occur. Fatalities reported with excessive use. Caution with CV disorders (eg, coronary insufficiency, arrhythmias, HTN), convulsive disorders, hyperthyroidism, diabetes mellitus (DM), and in patients unusually responsive to sympathomimetic amines. Large doses of IV albuterol reported to aggravate preexisting DM and ketoacidosis. May cause significant hypokalemia. Caution in elderly.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Throat irritation, viral respiratory infections, upper respiratory inflammation, cough, musculoskeletal pain.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

Avoid with other short-acting sympathomimetic aerosol bronchodilators; caution with additional adrenergic drugs administered by any route. Use with β -blockers may block pulmonary effects and produce severe bronchospasm in asthmatic patients; avoid concomitant use. If needed, consider cardioselective β -blockers and use with caution. ECG changes and/or hypokalemia caused by non- K^+ -sparing diuretics (eg, loop, thiazide diuretics) may be worsened. May decrease serum digoxin levels. Use extreme caution with MAOIs and TCAs, or within 2 weeks of discontinuation of such agents.

PREGNANCY AND LACTATION

Category C, not for use in nursing.

MECHANISM OF ACTION

β_2 -agonist; activates β_2 -adrenergic receptors on airway smooth muscle, leading to the activation of adenylyl cyclase and to an increase in the intracellular cAMP. Increased cAMP leads to the activation of protein kinase A, which inhibits the phosphorylation of myosin and lowers intracellular ionic Ca^{2+} concentrations, resulting in relaxation of the smooth muscles of all airways, from the trachea to the terminal bronchioles.

PHARMACOKINETICS

Absorption: C_{max} =3ng/mL (1080mcg of albuterol base); T_{max} =0.42 hrs. **Elimination:** $T_{1/2}$ =4.6 hrs.

ASSESSMENT

Assess for history of hypersensitivity to the drug, CV disorders, convulsive disorders, hyperthyroidism, DM, pregnancy/nursing status, and possible drug interactions. Assess use in patients unusually responsive to sympathomimetic amines.

MONITORING

Monitor for paradoxical bronchospasm, deterioration of asthma, CV effects, ECG changes, hypokalemia, immediate hypersensitivity reactions, and other adverse effects. Monitor BP, HR, and blood glucose levels.

PATIENT COUNSELING

Counsel not to increase dose/frequency of doses without consulting physician. Advise to seek immediate medical attention if treatment becomes less effective for symptomatic relief, symptoms become worse, and/or there is a need to use the product more frequently than usual. Instruct on how to properly prime, clean, and use inhaler. Instruct to take concurrent inhaled drugs and asthma medications only as directed by the physician. Inform of the common adverse effects of treatment. Advise to notify physician if pregnant/nursing. Instruct to avoid spraying in eyes.

STORAGE

20-25°C (68-77°F); excursions permitted to 15-30°C (59-86°F). Store with mouthpiece down. Do not puncture or store near heat or open flame.

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