

Albuterol (Proventil®), ProAir®, Xopenex®)

Indication: Bronchodilator in reversible airway obstruction due to reactive airway disease, asthma, COPD, CHF, anaphylaxis or other respiratory conditions causing bronchospasm.

Adult dose range: 2.5-5 mg as needed. Pre-hospital personnel may assist a patient with self-administration of their MDI.

Pediatric dose range: If less than 15kg- 2.5 mg; if > 15 kg- up to 5mg

Time to onset: 5 to 15 minutes (if inhaled)

Contraindications:

- Hypersensitivity to albuterol
- Adult heart rate above 180 bpm w/o contacting Med Control
- Pediatric heart rate above 220 bpm w/o contacting Med Control

How is it given?

- Via nebulization or metered dose inhaler

What should be monitored?

- Heart rate
- CNS stimulation
- Respiratory status

Major drug interactions:

- Beta blockers (decrease effect)
- MAO inhibitors and TCA's (may increase cardiovascular effects)
- Other sympathomimetic aerosol bronchodilators or epinephrine should not be used concomitantly with Albuterol, including over-the-counter-aerosols.

What side effects/potential complications are expected?

- Tachycardia, palpitations, pounding heartbeat
- GI upset, nausea
- CNS stimulation
- Tremors

Are there any special instructions/considerations?

- Patient may need assistance and coaching with the treatment