

IPRATROPIUM BROMIDE



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE



ABOUT your medicine

Your doctor has prescribed Ipratropium bromide for you. This medicine comes in two dosage forms - inhaler and inhalation solution.

Ipratropium belongs to a class of medicines known as anti-cholinergics. It works by opening up the air passages & helps ease the movement of air in and out of the lungs.

Ipratropium is used in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) like bronchitis & emphysema (destruction of the air sacs in the lungs for gaseous exchange). It may be used in combination with salbutamol inhaler for the treatment of asthma, depending on the severity of your condition.

HOW should I use the medicine?

Your doctor will determine the amount of medicine you should take based on the severity of your condition. Take this medicine in the dose prescribed by your doctor.

Inhaler:

The inhaler is usually used on a daily basis. The usual dosage is two puffs three to four times daily. Do not exceed the stated dose and frequency unless specified otherwise by your doctor. If you are using more than one puff, be sure to administer the next puff about a minute after the first puff. Remember to prime your inhaler whenever you start using a new inhaler. The last few sprays do not contain any medication.

Inhalation solution:

Ipratropium inhalation solution is inhaled into the airways using a nebuliser, a device that breaks up the inhalation liquid into tiny droplets so that it can be inhaled into the lungs through a breathing mask. The inhalation can be given together with salbutamol inhalation solution either intermittently three to four times a day or continuously throughout the day, depending on the severity of your condition.

*Keep all medication out of reach of children
Discard all medication that has expired or is no longer required*

What should I do if I FORGET a dose?

If you miss a dose or forget to take your medicine, take it as soon as you can. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then to take the medicine and skip the missed dose. Do not double your dose or use extra medicine to make up for a missed dose.

What are the possible SIDE-EFFECTS of the medicine?

You may experience the following side-effects:

Gastro-intestinal - Nausea, Stomach upset

Respiratory - Cough

Cardiovascular - Heart beating faster than normal

Nervous System - Dizziness, Fatigue, Headache, Nervousness

These side-effects are mostly short-lived & usually go away with time. However, if any of them are still bothering you after some time, you should inform your doctor.

What PRECAUTIONS should I take?

Care should be taken not to allow the inhalation solution or mist to enter the eyes as this may cause glaucoma (high pressure in the eyes) and other eye problems.

Inform your doctor and pharmacist if

- you have any medical conditions, especially glaucoma, urinary obstruction problems, benign prostate hypertrophy or cystic fibrosis.
- you are already taking some other medicines, herbal preparations, nutritional products or vitamin supplements.
- you are allergic to any other medicines, or if you develop an allergy while taking this medicine. The symptoms of a drug allergy include one or more of the following: swollen face/eyes/lips, difficulty in breathing or widespread itchy skin rashes. Some people may be allergic to the preservative benzalkonium chloride or the stabilizer ethylene diamine tetra-acetic acid (EDTA)
- you are breast-feeding, pregnant or likely to become pregnant during the course of this treatment.

How should I STORE the medicine?

Store the medicine in a dry place at room temperature, away from heat and direct light. Do not refrigerate your medicines unless instructed to do so.