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Atrovent

Generic Name: ipratropium inhalation (IP ra TRO pee um)
Brand Names: *Atrovent HFA*

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What is Atrovent?

Atrovent is used to prevent bronchospasm, or narrowing airways in the lungs, in people with bronchitis, emphysema, or COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).

Atrovent may also be used for other purposes not listed in this medication guide.

What is the most important information I should know about Atrovent?

Before using this medication, tell your doctor if you have narrow-angle glaucoma, or an enlarged prostate or bladder obstruction. If you have any of these conditions, you may need a dose adjustment or special tests to safely use Atrovent.

Atrovent is used to prevent bronchospasm attacks. Atrovent will not treat bronchospasm while it is happening. You may still have difficulty breathing and may need to use one of your other medicines to treat the attack. To best control your condition, use Atrovent regularly, and continue using all your other medicines as directed by your doctor.

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Approval History
Aerosol, Metered; Inhalation FDA approved 1986



Pregnancy Category
No proven risk in humans



Availability
Prescription only



CSA Schedule
Not a controlled drug

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Use this medication exactly as it was prescribed for you. Do not use it in larger doses or for longer than recommended by your doctor.

Call your doctor right away if you feel that this medicine is not working as well as usual, or if it makes your condition worse. If it seems like you need to use more of any of your medications in a 24-hour period, talk with your doctor.

Extreme heat can cause the Atrovent canister to burst. Do not store your inhaler in your [car](#) on hot days. Do not throw an empty canister into open flame.

Keep track of the number of sprays you have used and throw away the inhaler canister after 200 sprays, even if it feels like there is still medicine in it.

What should I discuss with my healthcare provider before using Atrovent?

Atrovent is used to prevent bronchospasm attacks. This medication will not treat bronchospasm while it is happening. You may still have difficulty breathing and may need to use one of your other medicines to treat the attack. To best control your condition, use Atrovent regularly, and continue using all your other medicines as directed by your doctor.

Before using Atrovent, tell your doctor if you have:

- narrow-angle glaucoma; or
- an enlarged prostate or a bladder obstruction.

If you have any of these conditions, you may need a dose adjustment or special tests to safely use this medication.

FDA [pregnancy](#) category B: This medication is not expected to be harmful to an unborn baby. Do not use Atrovent without telling your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant during treatment. It is not known if ipratropium passes into breast milk or if it could harm a nursing baby. Do not use Atrovent without telling your doctor if you are breast-feeding a baby. Atrovent should not be used by a child younger than 12 years of age.

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How should I use Atrovent?

Use this medication exactly as it was prescribed for you. Do not use it in larger doses or for longer than recommended by your doctor.

This medication comes with patient instructions for safe and effective use. Follow these directions carefully. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions.

When using the inhaler device for the first time, prime it by spraying 2 test sprays into the air, away from your face. Also prime the inhaler if you have not used it for 3 days or longer.

The instructions below are for standard use of the inhaler and nebulizer devices. Your doctor may want you to use your device differently. Be sure you understand all instructions that are specific to your use of Atrovent.

To use the inhaler:



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Help and Support

Looking for answers? [Ask a question](#) or go join the [Atrovent support group](#) to connect with others who have similar interests.

- Uncap the mouthpiece of the inhaler. Breathe out fully. Put the mouthpiece into your [mouth](#) and close your lips. Keep your eyes closed to prevent spraying any medicine into your eyes. Breathe in slowly while pushing down on the canister. Hold your breath for 10 seconds, then breathe out slowly.
- If you use more than one inhalation at a time, wait at least 15 seconds before using the second inhalation.
- Keep your inhaler clean and dry, and store it with the cap on the mouthpiece. Clean your inhaler once a week by removing the canister and placing the mouthpiece under warm running water for at least 30 seconds. Allow the parts to dry before putting the inhaler back together.

To use the solution with a nebulizer:

- Measure the correct amount of medicine using the dropper provided, or use the proper number of ampules. Place the liquid into the medication chamber of the nebulizer. If using a medicine dropper, do not allow the dropper to touch any surface including your hands or the nebulizer.
- Attach the mouthpiece or face mask to the drug chamber. Then, attach the drug chamber to the compressor. Sit upright in a comfortable position. Place the mouthpiece into your mouth or put the face mask on, covering your nose and mouth. Breathe in slowly and evenly until you have inhaled all of the medicine (usually 5 to 15 minutes). The treatment is complete when no more mist is formed by the nebulizer and the drug chamber is empty.
- Clean the nebulizer after each use. Follow the cleaning directions that came with your nebulizer.

Call your doctor right away if you feel that this medicine is not working as well as usual, or if it makes your condition worse. If it seems like you need to use more of any of your medications in a 24-hour period, talk with your doctor.

To be sure this medication is helping your condition, your lung function will need to be tested on a regular basis. It is important that you not miss any scheduled visits to your doctor.

Store Atrovent at room temperature away from [moisture](#) and heat. Extreme heat can cause the canister to burst. Do not store it in your car on hot days. Do not throw an empty canister into open flame.
Keep track of the number of sprays you have used and throw away the inhaler canister after 200 sprays, even if it feels like there is still medicine in it.

What happens if I miss a dose?

Use the medication as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and wait until your next regularly scheduled dose. Do not use extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention if you think you have used too much of this medicine. Atrovent is not expected to cause overdose symptoms.

What should I avoid while using Atrovent?

Avoid getting Atrovent in your eyes. If this happens, rinse with water.

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Atrovent side effects

Stop using Atrovent and get emergency medical help if you have any of these signs of an allergic reaction: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat. Call your doctor at once if you have a fast, pounding heartbeat.
Other less serious side effects are more likely to occur, such as:

- headache, dizziness;
- dry mouth, cough, hoarseness;
- nausea, upset stomach; or
- blurred vision.

If you switch from Atrovent to Atrovent HFA, you may notice a slightly different taste or feel after inhaling the medication.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Tell your doctor about any unusual or bothersome side effect. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

See also: [Atrovent side effects](#) (in more detail)

What other drugs will affect Atrovent?

Before using Atrovent, tell your doctor if you are using any of the following medicines:

- atropine (Donnatal, and others),
- belladonna,
- clidinium (Quarzan),
- dicyclomine (Bentyl),
- glycopyrrolate (Robinul),
- hyoscyamine (Anaspaz, Cystospaz, Levsin, and others)
- mepenzolate (Cantil),
- methantheline (Provocholine),
- methscopolamine (Pamine), and
- propantheline (Pro-Banthine), or
- scopolamine (Transderm-Scop).

This list is not complete and there may be other drugs not listed that can affect Atrovent. Tell your doctor about all the prescription and over-the-counter medications you use. This includes [vitamins](#), minerals, herbal products, and drugs prescribed by other doctors. Do not start using a new medication without telling your doctor.

More Atrovent resources

- [Atrovent Side Effects](#) (in more detail)
- [Atrovent Use in Pregnancy & Breastfeeding](#)
- [Atrovent Drug Interactions](#)
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Advanced [Atrovent Inhalation, oral/nebulization Advanced Consumer](#)
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Where can I get more information?

- Your pharmacist can provide more information about Atrovent.

What does my medication look like?

Ipratropium inhalation is available with a prescription under the brand name Atrovent. Other brand or generic formulations may also be available. Ask your pharmacist any questions you have about this medication, especially if it is new to you.

- Atrovent 18 mcg per inhalation - white mouthpiece, clear colorless sleeve, green cap
- Atrovent HFA 21 mcg per inhalation - white mouthpiece, clear colorless sleeve, green cap

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