

Budesonide Inhalation

(byoo-DES-oh-nide)

(Pulmicort®)



Asthma Education Clinic

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www.bcchildrens.ca

What is budesonide?

Budesonide is an inhaled corticosteroid, commonly referred to as an inhaled “steroid.” It is used for long-term control of asthma symptoms. The brand name for this medicine is Pulmicort®. It reduces the inflammation in the airways of the lungs, which helps prevent your child from having an asthma attack. Budesonide is given through a dry-powder inhaler (Turbuhaler®) or by aerosol machine (nebulizer or compressor).

Special instructions

- ▶ Budesonide is used to prevent an asthma attack. We call it a “preventer” medicine. It is important that your child takes budesonide regularly as prescribed even when he or she is not having symptoms and looks well.
- ▶ Do not stop using unless told to do so by your child’s doctor.
- ▶ Budesonide will not stop your child’s asthma attack. If your child is having an asthma attack, you should give a “reliever” medicine (eg. salbutamol or terbutaline).
- ▶ Do not shake the dry-powder inhaler (Turbuhaler®) before use.
- ▶ Rinse mouth out with water and spit after each use. If your child is too young to spit, simply have him or her take a drink of water. If your child uses an aerosol machine (nebulizer or compressor) with mask, gently wipe your child’s face with a wet washcloth after each use.
- ▶ It may take a few weeks for this medicine to work
- ▶ Keep this medicine out of the reach of children
- ▶ Read and follow all instructions provided with inhaler. Using this medicine the correct way is very important. Ask your child’s doctor, pharmacist, or certified asthma educator if you have any questions about how to use the inhaler. You must use this medicine correctly for the medicine to work as it was intended.

Dose counting

Keep track of how many doses of your child’s medicine remain and get a new prescription before it runs out.

The dry-powder inhaler (Turbuhaler®) has a dose indicator. When a red mark first appears in the little window underneath the mouthpiece, there are approximately 20 doses left. This is the time to obtain a new inhaler. When the red mark reaches the bottom of the window, you should discard your inhaler.

If you miss a dose

- ▶ If you miss a dose or forget to give this medicine, give it as soon as you remember unless it is almost time for the next dose, then skip the missed dose. Do not give extra medicine to make up for the missed dose. If you are unsure what to do about a missed dose, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

Common side effects

Call your child’s doctor if the following effects continue or are bothersome:

- ▶ Hoarseness or sore throat
- ▶ Yeast infections in the mouth (white spots), known as thrush

Warning signs

Call your child’s doctor immediately if your child:

- ▶ Does not respond to his/her asthma “reliever” or “rescue” medicine (eg. salbutamol or terbutaline).
- ▶ Seems to need more frequent use of asthma “reliever” or “rescue” medication.
- ▶ Develops worsening symptoms of asthma.

Contact us

If you need any additional information about this medicine or your child’s asthma, call the Asthma Educators at BC Children’s Hospital at 604-875-2345 local 7461.

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This resource was created for British Columbia's Children's Hospital (BCCH) with references from:

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
www.cincinnatichildrens.org

Canadian Lung Association at www.lung.ca

Children's Hospital Education Centre,
Winnipeg, Manitoba at www.wch.ca

For more information on asthma, contact the BC Children's Hospital Family Resource Library at:

Tel: (604) 875-2345 Local 5102

Out of Vancouver: 1-800-331-1533 local 2

Fax: (604) 875-3455

Email: famreslib@cw.bc.ca

www.bcchildrens.ca/frl

*Developed by the Pharmacy Department and the Certified Asthma Educators from the Asthma Education Clinic
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