

Formoterol Inhalation (Oxeze®)

(for-MOH-tuhr-all)



Asthma Education Clinic
4480 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC V6H 3V4
604-875-2345 • 1-888-300-3088
www.bcchildrens.ca

What is formoterol?

Formoterol (Oxeze®) is a long-acting bronchodilator. Bronchodilators work by relaxing the muscles around the airways of the lung. Long-acting means that it will keep the airways relaxed and open for up to 12 hours. It is sometimes given before exercise to prevent exercise-induced asthma symptoms. When used for the long-term control of asthma, formoterol must be used with inhaled corticosteroids. Formoterol works together with inhaled corticosteroids to control asthma symptoms when taken regularly. Formoterol is given through a dry-powder inhaler (Turbuhaler®).

Special instructions

- ▶ Formoterol is used with inhaled corticosteroids to prevent an asthma attack. We call it a “preventer” medicine. It is important that your child takes formoterol 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.
- ▶ Formoterol should not be used for quick relief of your child’s asthma attack unless otherwise directed by your child’s doctor. If your child is having an asthma attack, you should give a “reliever” medicine (eg. salbutamol or terbutaline)
- ▶ Formoterol is not a substitute for inhaled corticosteroids (eg. fluticasone or budesonide). Do not change the dosage of these medicines. Do not stop using these medicines without talking to your child’s doctor even if he or she feels better after starting formoterol.
- ▶ Do not shake the dry-powder inhaler (Turbuhaler®) before using.
- ▶ 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 get 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:

- ▶ Irregular heartbeats
- ▶ Fast heart rate
- ▶ Nervousness
- ▶ Tremor
- ▶ Inability to sleep

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.
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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.

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