

Terbutaline Inhalation

(ter-BYOO-ta-leen) (Bricanyl®)



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

What is terbutaline?

Terbutaline is a quick-relief medicine for wheezing and other symptoms of asthma. The brand name for this medicine is Bricanyl®. It relaxes the muscles surrounding the airways of the lungs and opens up the airways. Terbutaline is sometimes given before exercise to prevent asthma symptoms. Terbutaline is given to your child through a dry-powder inhaler (Turbuhaler®).

Special instructions

- ▶ Terbutaline is used as needed for quick relief of symptoms. The effects of terbutaline last approximately 4 hours. Use as directed by your child's doctor.
- ▶ Do not shake the dry-powder inhaler (Turbuhaler®) before using.
- ▶ Make sure you refill this prescription before you run out of medicine.
- ▶ If you notice that your child needs to use the inhaler more often than usual, you should talk with your child's doctor. If your child needs terbutaline more than 3 times a week, outside of use for exercise, this may mean his or her asthma is not well controlled.
- ▶ 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 using the inhaler.

Dose counting

It is important that you keep track of how many doses of your child's medication are remaining and obtain 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 medication 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:

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

Warning signs

Call your child's doctor immediately if your child:

- ▶ Needs this medicine more often than prescribed
- ▶ Is not helped by taking this medicine

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