Cutterguide: No Printing Process: Offset GD: SV 40368

Size: 215.9 x 279.4 mm Pages: 2 Colors: BLACK (1 Color) Native File: Indesign CC Windows Generated in: Acrobat Distiller XI

Ventolin®

VERSION: GDS22/IPI06

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Ventolin®

SYRUP

Salbutamol sulphate

Qualitative and Quantitative Composition

VENTOLIN® Syrup contains 2 mg salbutamol, as sulphate, in each 5 ml of syrup.

Pharmaceutical Form

Syrup.

Clinical Particulars

Indications

VENTOLIN® is a selective beta-$_2$ adrenoceptor agonist indicated for the treatment or prevention of bronchospasm. It provides short acting bronchodilation in reversible airways obstruction due to asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

Bronchodilators should not be the only or main treatment in patients with persistent asthma. In patients with persistent asthma unresponsive to *VENTOLIN®*, treatment with inhaled corticosteroids is recommended to achieve and maintain control. Failing to respond to treatment with *VENTOLIN®* may signal a need for urgent medical advice or treatment.

VENTOLIN® syrup is indicated for the relief of bronchospasm in bronchial asthma of all types, chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

VENTOLIN® Syrup is suitable oral therapy for children or those adults who prefer liquid medicines.

Dosage and Administration

VENTOLIN® has a duration of action of 4 to 6 hours in most patients.

Increasing use of beta-$_2$ agonists may be a sign of worsening asthma. Under these conditions a reassessment of the patient's therapy plan may be required and concomitant glucocorticosteroid therapy should be considered.

As there may be adverse effects associated with excessive dosing, the dosage or frequency of administration should only be increased on medical advice.

Adults

The usual effective dose is 10 ml salbutamol (4 mg of salbutamol) 3 or 4 times per day. If adequate bronchodilation is not obtained each single dose may be gradually increased to as much as 20 ml of syrup (8 mg salbutamol).

Some patients obtain adequate relief with 5 ml of syrup (2 mg salbutamol) 3 or 4 times daily).

Children

2-6 years 2.5 to 5 ml of syrup (1 to 2 mg salbutamol) 3 or 4 times daily.

6-12 years 5 ml of syrup (2 mg salbutamol) 3 or 4 times daily.

Over 12 years 5 to 10 ml of syrup (2 to 4 mg salbutamol) 3 or 4 times daily.

Special Patient Groups

In elderly patients or in those known to be unusually sensitive to beta- adrenergic stimulant drugs, it is advisable to initiate treatment with 5 ml of syrup (2 mg salbutamol) 3 or 4 times per day.

Contraindications

VENTOLIN® Syrup is contra-indicated in patients with a history of hypersensitivity to any of its components.

Non-i.v. formulations of *VENTOLIN®* must not be used to arrest uncomplicated premature labour or threatened abortion.

Warnings and Precautions

The management of asthma should normally follow a stepwise programme, and patient response should be monitored clinically and by lung function tests.

Increasing use of short-acting inhaled beta-$_2$ agonists to control symptoms indicates deterioration of asthma control. Under these conditions, the patient's therapy plan should be reassessed. Sudden and progressive deterioration in asthma control is potentially life threatening and consideration should be given to starting or increasing corticosteroid therapy. In patients considered at risk, daily peak flow monitoring may be instituted.

Patients should be warned that if either the usual relief is diminished or the usual duration of action reduced, they should not increase the dose or its frequency of administration, but should seek medical advice.

VENTOLIN® should be administered cautiously to patients with thyrotoxicosis.

Potentially serious hypokalaemia may result from beta-$_2$ agonist therapy mainly from parenteral and nebulizer administration. Particular caution is advised in acute severe asthma as this effect may be potentiated by concomitant treatment with xanthine derivatives, steroids, diuretics and by hypoxia. It is recommended that serum potassium levels are monitored in such situations.

In common with other beta-adrenoceptor agonists, *VENTOLIN®* can induce reversible metabolic changes, for example increased blood sugar levels. The diabetic patient may be unable to compensate for this and the development of ketacidosis has been reported. Concurrent administration of corticosteroids can exaggerate this effect.

Long term treatment with *VENTOLIN®* Syrup (Sugar-containing formulation) increases the risk of dental caries. It is important that adequate dental hygiene is maintained.

Interactions

VENTOLIN® and non-selective beta-blocking drugs, such as propranolol, should not usually be prescribed together.

VENTOLIN® is not contra-indicated in patients under treatment with monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs).

Pregnancy and Lactation

Fertility

There is no information on the effects of salbutamol on human fertility. There were no adverse effects on fertility in animals (see *Pre-clinical Safety Data*).

Pregnancy

Administration of drugs during pregnancy should only be considered if the expected benefit to the mother is greater than any possible risk to the fetus.

During worldwide marketing experience, rare cases of various congenital anomalies, including cleft palate and limb defects have been reported in the offspring of patients being treated with salbutamol. Some of the mothers were taking multiple medications during their pregnancies.

As no consistent pattern of defects can be discerned, and baseline rate for congenital anomalies is 2 to 3%, a relationship with salbutamol use cannot be established.

Lactation

As salbutamol is probably secreted in breast milk its use in nursing mothers is not recommended unless the expected benefits outweigh any potential risk. It is not known whether salbutamol in breast milk has a harmful effect on the neonate.

Effects on Ability to Drive and Use Machines

None Reported.

Adverse Reactions

Adverse reactions are listed below by system organ class and frequency. Frequencies are defined as: very common (≥1/10), common (≥1/100 to <1/10), uncommon (≥1/1000 to <1/100), rare (≥1/10000 to <1/1000) and very rare (<1/10000) including isolated reports.

Very common and common reactions were generally determined from clinical trial data.

Rare and very rare reactions were generally determined from spontaneous data.

Immune System Disorders

Very rare: Hypersensitivity reactions including angioedema, urticaria, bronchospasm, hypotension and collapse.

Metabolism and nutrition disorders

Rare: Hypokalaemia.

Potentially serious hypokalaemia may result from beta-$_2$ agonist therapy.

Nervous System Disorders

Very common: Tremor.

Common: Headache.

Very rare: Hyperactivity.

Cardiac Disorders

Common: Tachycardia, palpitations.

Rare: Cardiac arrhythmias including atrial fibrillation, supraventricular tachycardia and extra systoles.

Vascular disorders

Rare: Peripheral vasodilatation.

Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Disorders

Common: Muscle cramps.

Very rare: Feeling of muscle tension.

Overdose

The most common signs and symptoms of overdose with *VENTOLIN®* are transient beta agonist pharmacologically mediated events (see *Warnings and Precautions and Adverse Reactions*).

Hypokalaemia may occur following overdose with *VENTOLIN®*. Serum potassium levels should be monitored.

Lactic acidosis has been reported in association with high therapeutic doses as well as overdoses of short-acting beta-agonist therapy, therefore monitoring for elevated serum lactate and consequent metabolic acidosis (particularly if there is persistence or worsening of tachypnea despite resolution of other signs of bronchospasm such as wheezing) may be indicated in the setting of overdose.

Nausea, vomiting and hyperglycemia have been reported, predominantly in children and when *VENTOLIN®* overdose has been taken via the oral route.

Treatment

Further management should be as clinically indicated or as recommended by the national poisons centre, where available.

Pharmacological Properties

Pharmacodynamics

Salbutamol is a selective beta-$_2$ adrenoceptor agonist. At therapeutic doses it acts on the beta-$_2$ adrenoceptors of bronchial muscle providing short acting (4 to 6 hour) bronchodilation in reversible airways obstruction.

Pharmacokinetics

Salbutamol administered intravenously has a half-life of 4 to 6 hours and is cleared partly renally and partly by metabolism to the inactive 4'-0- sulphate (phenolic sulphate) which is also excreted primarily in the urine.

The faeces are a minor route of excretion. The majority of a dose of salbutamol given intravenously, orally or by inhalation is excreted within 72 hours. Salbutamol is bound to plasma proteins to the extent of 10%.

After oral administration, salbutamol is absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract and undergoes considerable first-pass metabolism to the phenolic sulphate. Both unchanged drug and conjugate are excreted primarily in the urine. The bioavailability of orally administered salbutamol is about 50%.

Pre-clinical Safety Data

In common with other potent selective beta-$_2$ receptor agonists, salbutamol has been shown to be teratogenic in mice when given subcutaneously. In a reproductive study, 9.3% of fetuses are found to have cleft palate, at 2.5 mg/kg, 4 times the maximum human oral dose. In rats, treatment at the levels of 0.5, 2.32, 10.75 and 50 mg/kg/day orally throughout pregnancy resulted in no significant foetal abnormalities. The only toxic effect was an increase in neonatal mortality at the highest dose level as the result of lack of maternal care. A reproductive study in rabbits revealed cranial malformations in 37% of fetuses at 50 mg/kg/day, 78 times the maximum human oral dose.

Reproduction studies in rats demonstrated no evidence of impaired fertility at oral doses of *VENTOLIN®* up to 50 mg/kg.

Pharmaceutical Particulars

List of Excipients

Syrup (sugar-free formulation)

Sodium Citrate
Citric Acid Monohydrate
Hydroxypropyl Methylcellulose 2910
Sodium Benzoate
Saccharin Sodium
Orange Flavour
Sodium Chloride
Purified Water

Syrup (sugar-containing formulation)

As registered locally

Incompatibilities

Sugar-free formulation

Dilution of *VENTOLIN®* Syrup with Syrup BP or Sorbitol solution is not recommended as this may result in precipitation of the cellulose thickening agent.

Shelf Life

3 years (sugar-free formulation)

The expiry date is indicated on the packaging (sugar-containing formulation).

Special Precautions for Storage

Store at a temperature not exceeding 30°C. (Sugar-free formulation).

Store at a temperature not exceeding 25°C. (Sugar-containing formulation).

Protect from light.

Nature and Contents of Container

Amber glass bottles with metal (aluminium) caps or plastic (polypropylene/high density polyethylene [PP/HDPE]) child resistant caps

Or

As registered locally

Instructions for Use/Handling

Dilution

Sugar-free formulation

VENTOLIN® Syrup may be diluted with Purified Water BP (50% v/v). The resulting mixture should be protected from light and used within 28 days.

A 50% v/v dilution of *VENTOLIN®* Syrup has been shown to be adequately preserved against microbial contamination. However, to avoid the possibility of introducing excessive microbial contamination, the Purified Water used for dilution should be recently prepared or alternatively it should be boiled and cooled immediately before use.

Admixture of *VENTOLIN®* Syrup with other liquid preparation is not recommended.

Sugar-containing formulation

VENTOLIN® Syrup may be diluted with Unpreserved Syrup BP. The resulting mixture should be protected from light and will keep for 14 days.

Not all presentations are available in every country.

Version: GDS22/IPI06

Date of issue: 29th April 2016

VENTOLIN® is a trademark of the GlaxoSmithKline group of companies

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