

Ventolin tablets-2mg and 4mg spandets, syrup : grasshopper warbler.

Contributors

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GRASSHOPPER WARBLER.

Ventolin

(salbutamol sulphate BP)

**TABLETS-2mg and 4mg
SPANDETS, SYRUP**

Oral bronchodilator therapy in chronic obstructive airways disease

PRESENTATIONS AND BASIC NHS COSTS

Ventolin Tablets 2mg and 4mg each contain 2mg or 4mg of salbutamol BP (as sulphate) in containers of 100 and 500. Basic NHS Cost of 100 tablets of 2mg and 4mg is 98p and £1.89 respectively. PL 0045/5079 and 0045/0088. Ventolin Syrup contains 2mg salbutamol BP (as sulphate) per 5ml in bottles of 150ml and 2 litres. Basic NHS Cost of 150ml is 52p. PL 0045/5024. Ventolin Spandets are slow release tablets, each containing 8mg salbutamol BP (as sulphate) in containers of 50. Basic NHS Cost of 50 Spandets is £2.30. PL 0045/0083.

INDICATIONS

All Ventolin preparations are indicated for the symptomatic relief of reversible airways obstruction in bronchial asthma, bronchitis and emphysema.

Ventolin Tablets and Syrup are suitable for routine therapy with the syrup being preferable for children and for elderly patients who experience difficulty in swallowing tablets.

Ventolin Spandets should be preferred for patients with nocturnal or early morning bronchospasm.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Ventolin Tablets 2mg and 4mg and Ventolin Syrup. The usual dosage for adults is 4mg 3 or 4 times daily, but if the response is inadequate this dosage may be doubled. In some patients a dosage regimen of 2mg 3 or 4 times daily has been found to be adequate. In elderly patients and those known to be sensitive to adrenergic-stimulant drugs it is advisable to initiate treatment with 2mg 3 or 4 times daily. In children treatment should start with half the adult dosage. Ventolin Spandets are usually administered to adults as one Spandet twice daily but up to 4 Spandets may be given per 24 hours. In children over 12 years of age 1 Spandet should be given twice daily. Ventolin Spandets should be swallowed whole and not chewed.

CONTRA-INDICATIONS

Although oral Ventolin is used in the management of premature labour, it should not be given to treat threatened abortion in the first or second trimesters of pregnancy. Ventolin oral preparations and beta-blocking drugs, such as propranolol should not usually be prescribed together.

PRECAUTIONS

Ventolin should be administered cautiously to patients suffering from thyrotoxicosis. Unnecessary administration of drugs during the first trimester of pregnancy is undesirable. Long-term treatment with Ventolin Syrup increases the risk of dental caries and it is essential that adequate dental hygiene is maintained.

SIDE EFFECTS

The only side effect of significance with oral Ventolin is a fine tremor of skeletal muscle which occurs in some patients; usually the hands are most obviously affected. This effect is dose related and is common to all beta-adrenergic stimulants. A few patients feel tense; this is also due to the effects on skeletal muscle and not to direct CNS stimulation. With doses of Ventolin higher than those recommended or in patients who are unusually sensitive to beta-adrenergic stimulants, peripheral vasodilatation and a compensatory small increase in heart rate may occur. Occasional headaches have been reported.

SELECTED BIRDS OF BRITAIN

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

Locustella naevia

This shy bird is a summer visitor to most parts of Britain except the extreme north. It tends to keep well hidden in low cover or bushes; thus it is often overlooked by it on marsh or moorland. The song, rather akin to the winding of a fishing reel, often continues for minutes on end, so that this bird is heard much more than it is seen. It lives mainly on insects and grubs. During courtship the female is chased through the undergrowth by her mate who carries a piece of leaf or grass and flicks his tail. Both birds build the nest with hay well hidden in heather or low vegetation. There is often a concealed runway to the nest. 4-6 pale cream, densely speckled reddish-brown eggs are laid. The sexes are identical in appearance. They reach a length of $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches (14 cm).

(Illustration from "A History of British Birds" by F. O. Morris)

FURTHER INFORMATION

Ventolin does not cause difficulty in micturition because, unlike sympathomimetic drugs such as ephedrine, it does not stimulate alpha-adrenoceptors. Ventolin is not contra-indicated in patients under treatment with monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs).

LEGAL CATEGORY

Prescription only medicine.

Full prescribing information is available on request.
Ventolin and Spandet are trade marks of
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