

Butamol

contains the active ingredient salbutamol (sulfate)



CONSUMER MEDICINE INFORMATION

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Butamol ampoules.

It does not contain all of the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have benefits and risks. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you using Butamol against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with your medicine. You may need to read it again.

What Butamol is used for

Butamol is used to make breathing easier for people with asthma, bronchitis and other breathing problems, by opening up the airways. It may also be used before exercise to keep the air passages open for people who have difficulty breathing during exercise.

Butamol belongs to a group of medicines called beta-2 agonists. Butamol is inhaled into the lungs and works rapidly to open the air passages in your lungs.

Butamol is available only with a doctor's prescription.

Before you use Butamol

When you must not use it

Do not use Butamol if you are allergic to medicines containing salbutamol.

Do not use Butamol if the expiry date (Exp.) printed on the pack has passed.

Do not use Butamol if the packaging shows signs of tampering or the medicine does not look quite right.

Before you start to use it

Tell your doctor if you are allergic to any other medicines, foods, dyes or preservatives.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.

Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of using Butamol during pregnancy.

Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding or wish to breastfeed.

Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of using Butamol when breastfeeding.

Tell your doctor if you have any medical conditions, especially the following:

- high blood pressure
- heart problems
- liver problems
- kidney problems
- thyroid conditions
- diabetes.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start using Butamol.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines may be affected by Butamol, or may affect how well it works. These include:

- some medicines used to treat high blood pressure or heart conditions
- some cough and cold preparations
- some weight reducing medicines
- medicines used to treat depression or other mood disorders.

Your doctor can tell you what to do if you are taking any of these medicines.

If you are not sure whether you are taking any of these medicines, check with your doctor or pharmacist.

Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking Butamol.

How to use Butamol

How much to use

The dose varies from patient to patient.

Adults: The usual dose is one 5 mg ampoule every four to six hours.

Children (4-12 years): The usual dose is one 2.5 mg ampoule every four to six hours.

Your doctor may advise you to use a different dose. This depends on your condition and whether or not you are taking any other medicines.

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor and pharmacist carefully.

How to use Butamol

Butamol ampoules are inhaled through a nebuliser according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Fresh solution must be used for each dose. After the full dose has been given, any solution remaining in the nebuliser must be thrown away. Nebuliser's should be cleaned after use according to manufacturer's instructions.

Do not swallow or inject the liquid in Butamol ampoules.

Butamol is for inhalation only, using a nebuliser.

If you forget to use Butamol

If you are using this medicine regularly and you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember.

Do not use a double dose to make up for the dose you missed.

If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

If you use too much Butamol (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor, or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26), or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital, if you think you or anyone else may have used too much Butamol. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

If you use too much Butamol, you may feel shaky, tremble or have a fast heart beat. These symptoms are usually mild side effects of Butamol. However, if they are severe or do not go away, it may be that you have taken too much Butamol.

While you are using Butamol

Things you must do

If you have an Asthma Action Plan developed by your doctor, follow it closely at all times.

If the usual dose of Butamol is not giving as much relief as before, or you need to use it more often, tell your doctor as soon as possible.

These may be signs that your condition is getting worse.

Before starting any new medicine, tell your doctor or pharmacist that you are using Butamol.

Tell all the doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are using Butamol.

If you become pregnant while using Butamol, tell your doctor.

Visit your doctor regularly so they can check your condition.

Things you must not do

Do not stop using Butamol, or lower the dose, without checking with your doctor.

Do not take any other medicines for your breathing problems without checking with your doctor.

Do not use Butamol to treat any other conditions unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not give Butamol to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

Things to be careful of

If you mix Butamol with ipratropium bromide (another medicine for asthma) in your nebuliser, be careful not to let the mist get in your eyes. If the mist does get in your eyes

and you get a headache with eye pain, red eyes or blurred vision, tell your doctor immediately.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are using Butamol.

Like all other medicines, Butamol may have unwanted side effects in some people. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects.

You may not experience any of them.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- muscle cramps
- mouth or throat irritation
- headache
- feeling shaky or tense
- fine tremors, especially of the hands
- fast heart beat
- dizziness
- feeling sick
- unusual feelings of warmth.

Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following:

- skin rash, hives or itching
- irregular heart beat, palpitations.

Tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital if you notice any of the following:

- increased wheezing or difficulty breathing after using Butamol.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some patients. Tell your doctor if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.

After using Butamol

Storage

Keep Butamol where children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Keep Butamol ampoules in the foil pack until it is time to use them.

If you take the ampoules out of the foil pack they may not keep well.

Once a foil pack has been opened, the ampoules must be used within 3 months. Discard any ampoules left after this time.

Keep Butamol in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.

Do not store Butamol or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink.

Do not leave Butamol in the car or on window sills.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop using Butamol, or your medicine has passed its expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any ampoules that are left over.

Product description

What it looks like

Butamol comes in 2 strengths:

- Butamol 2.5
- Butamol 5.

Each pack of Butamol contains 30 plastic ampoules. Each ampoule contains 2.5 mL of clear, colourless liquid.

Ingredients

The active ingredient in Butamol is salbutamol (as salbutamol sulfate):

- each Butamol 2.5 ampoule contains 2.5 mg of salbutamol in 2.5 mL of liquid
- each Butamol 5 ampoule contains 5 mg of salbutamol in 2.5 mL of liquid.

Butamol ampoules also contain:

- sodium chloride
- water for injections.

Butamol is preservative free.

Supplier

Sigma Pharmaceuticals (Australia) Pty Ltd
96 Merrindale Drive
Croydon Vic 3136
Tel: 03 - 9839 2800

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Butamol 5 - Aust R 93950

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