

COPD Medications

Your doctor may prescribe medicine to reduce symptoms of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Most people with COPD take long-acting medicine every day to help shortness of breath. In addition, short-acting medicine is used on an only-when-needed basis to decrease shortness of breath.

Bronchodilator Medication for COPD

Bronchodilators help open the airways in the lungs by relaxing smooth muscle around the airways. Bronchodilator medication can be short or long acting. There are different types of short or long acting bronchodilators that work in different ways.



Short-Acting Bronchodilators (Short acting beta agonists, SABA & short-acting muscarinic antagonists, SAMA)

These medications work quickly (within 15-20 minutes) to help decrease shortness of breath. Your doctor may prescribe these as-needed to decrease shortness of breath. They may also be prescribed before exercise.

SABA (Short-acting inhaled beta-agonists) include:

- Proventil HFA[®], ProAir[®], Ventolin HFA[®] (albuterol). Take with MDI or RespiClick[®].
- Xopenex HFA[®], Xopenex[®] (levalbuterol), Take with MDI or nebulizer.

SABA & SAMA (Short-acting muscarinic antagonist) combination bronchodilators include:

- Combivent[®] (albuterol and ipratropium), Take with Respimat[®].
- Duoneb[®] (albuterol and ipratropium) Take with nebulizer.

Long-Acting Bronchodilators

These medications are long-acting. Long-acting bronchodilators are used regularly to open the airways and keep them open.

Long-acting bronchodilators can be either LABAs (long-acting beta2 agonists) or LAMAs (long-acting muscarinic antagonists). LABA and LAMA are types of bronchodilators:

LAMAs include:

- Incruse® (umeclidinium), Take once daily using Ellipta®.
- Seebri® (glycopyrrolate), Take twice daily using Respimat®
- Spiriva® (tiotropium), Take once daily using Respimat® or Handihaler®.
- Tudorza® (aclidinium), Take twice daily using Pressair®.

LABAs include:

- Arcapta® (indacaterol), Take once daily using Ellipta
- Brovana® (arformoterol), Take twice daily using nebulizer.
- Perforomist® (formoterol), Take twice daily using nebulizer.
- Serevent® (salmeterol), Take twice daily using Discus® or MDI.
- Stiverdi® (olodaterol), Take once daily using Respimat®.

LAMA & LABA combinations include:

- Anoro® (umeclidinium and vilanterol), Take once daily using Ellipta®.
- Stiolto® (olodaterol and tiotropium), Take once daily using Respimat®.
- Utibron® (indacaterol and glycopyrrolate), Take twice daily using Neohaler®.
- Bevespi® (glycopyrrolate and formoterol). Take twice daily using Aerosphere®.

Combination Long-Acting Bronchodilator and Anti-Inflammatory Medications

These combination medications combine a LABA and anti-inflammatory medication (ICS). Anti-inflammatory medication helps reduce and prevent inflammation inside the airways.

LABA & ICS include:

- Advair® (fluticasone and salmeterol), Take twice daily using Discus® or MDI.
- Breo® (fluticasone and vilanterol), Take once daily using Ellipta®.

- Symbicort[®] (budesonide and formoterol), Take once daily using MDI.

Triple Combination Anti-Inflammatory, LAMA and LABA

- Trelegy[®] (fluticasone, umeclidinium and vilanterol). Take once daily using Ellipta[®].

Daliresp[®] (roflumilast)

This is pill for people with severe COPD to help decrease exacerbations or flare-ups.

Steroid Pills

Steroid pills are used when you have an exacerbation or flare-up and your symptoms are getting worse. Long-term use of steroid pills can result in serious side effects and are not recommended to treat COPD long-term.

Steroid pills include:

- Deltasone[®] (prednisone)
- Medrol[®] (methylprednisolone)

Antibiotics for COPD

A bacterial infection can cause worsening of the symptoms of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Antibiotics (azithromycin) help fight bacterial infections that can occur with COPD, Antibiotics may be used to prevent an exacerbation.

Theophylline

Theophylline is a pill that may be used to every day to help shortness of breath.

Visit our website for more information about support groups, clinical trials and lifestyle information.

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