

Quick-Relief Medications

Emergency/rescue/quick-relief medications

These are used for fast relief if you are coughing, wheezing, or having problems breathing because of an asthma attack. These drugs work by relaxing the muscles around your airways. They are called “bronchodilators.”

If you need to use your rescue inhaler more than twice a week to control symptoms, you may need a daily preventive controller medication.

These emergency rescue medicines come in an inhaler and as a liquid in a vial. The vial is put in a machine to make a mist which is breathed in.

These medications can make you have a fast or irregular heartbeat. Talk to your doctor if this happens and you have heart problems. You could be at increased risk for sudden death from heart problems. You may also have headaches, tremors, shakiness, anxiety or feel restless.



- Short acting beta2-agonists
 - » Proventil, Proventil HFA, Ventolin HFA (albuterol)
 - » ProAir HFA
 - » Maxair (Piruterol)
 - » Xopenex HFA (Levalbuterol)
- Anticholinergics
 - » Atrovent (ipratropium bromide)
 - » Spiriva



Be sure to talk to your doctor about the potential side effects and all the risks and benefits of your asthma medications.

