

ATROVENT™ (brand), IPRATROPIUM BROMIDE (generic)

ACTION: Anticholinergic bronchodilator

INDICATIONS:

1. For relief of acute bronchospasm (reversible airway obstruction) in COPD patients only

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

1. Allergy or known hypersensitivity to Atrovent
2. Hypersensitivity to atropine (chemically related)

PRECAUTIONS:

1. Use with caution in patients with heart disease, hypertension, glaucoma and the elderly.
2. Ipratropium may worsen the condition of glaucoma if it gets into the eyes. Having the patient close their eyes during nebulization may prevent this.

ADVERSE REACTIONS/SIDE EFFECTS:

1. More common: cough, dry mouth or unpleasant taste
2. Less common or rare: vision changes, eye burning or pain, dizziness, headache, nausea, nervousness, palpitations, sweating, trembling, increased wheezing or dyspnea, chest tightness, rash, hives or facial swelling

ADMINISTRATION:

1. Atrovent is used only in combination with albuterol in the prehospital setting.
2. Dosage for adults: Pour one unit dose bottle (500 mcg = 2.5 ml of 0.02% solution) into nebulizer reservoir with one unit dose of albuterol.
3. Connect nebulizer to oxygen source at 6 or 8 liters per minute (depending on manufacturer).
4. Have patient breathe as calmly and deeply as possible until no more mist is found in the nebulizer chamber (5-15 minutes). An acceptable alternative to using the mouthpiece would be to attach the nebulizer reservoir to an oxygen mask, i.e. remove the bag from a non-rebreather nebulizer reservoir and do not use the T-piece or the mouthpiece. If a mask is used, adjust the mask to prevent mist from getting into the patient's eyes.
5. **One nebulizer treatment with ipratropium may be given to COPD patients prior to contact with medical control. If further nebulization is indicated, albuterol-only nebs should be given.**
6. In the intubated patient, Atrovent should be administered with an adapter that permits in-line nebulization.
7. Further orders must come from monitoring physician.

PEDIATRIC CONSIDERATIONS:

1. One Atrovent/albuterol neb treatment at adult strength may be given to children suffering from asthma prior to contact with medical control. If further nebulization is indicated, albuterol-only nebs should be given.

SPECIAL NOTES:

1. Nebulizer treatments for patients with active tuberculosis should be performed in well-ventilated areas (outside patient compartment if possible). Providers should use approved respiratory protection.