

Atrovent (ipratropium) basics

Controls COPD. First choice inhaler for controlling mild chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Atrovent (ipratropium) Drug effectiveness					
Possible side effects					
Dry mouth 4% chance vs. 2% placebo*					
Bronchitis 10% chance vs. 6% placebo*					
Sinus infection†					

* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- It doesn't work fast enough to treat an acute attack. Always have your rescue inhaler handy in case you have sudden difficulty breathing.
- Talk to your doctor about using a spacer or a nebulizer if you're having trouble using the inhaler.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Not a rescue inhaler

Atrovent (ipratropium) is a controller inhaler that stabilizes your COPD over time. It will not help if you have sudden difficulty breathing. Make sure to always have your rescue inhaler with you.

Serious allergic reaction

In some rare cases, people taking Atrovent (ipratropium) can have very serious, life threatening allergic reactions. If you have trouble breathing, feel swelling in your tongue, lips and face, or have severe itching and rash, go to the emergency room right away.

COPD attack

Atrovent (ipratropium) can cause a sudden COPD attack. Use your rescue inhaler and talk to your doctor right away, since you might have to use a different medication.