

# Pulmicort (budesonide) basics

**Controls asthma.** Pulmicort (budesonide) is good for controlling and preventing asthma symptoms in children, but it's not a rescue inhaler and requires a jet nebulizer machine.

## 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
<b>Pulmicort (budesonide)</b> Drug effectiveness					
<b>Possible side effects</b>					
<b>Runny, stuffy nose</b> 7% chance vs. 9% placebo*					
<b>Coughing</b> 5% chance vs. 5% placebo*					
<b>Yeast infection</b> 4% chance vs. 2% placebo*					
<b>Nosebleed</b> 2% chance vs. 1% placebo*					
<b>Viral infection</b> 4% chance vs. 3% placebo*					

\* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Rinse out the child's mouth with water after each use to prevent a fungal infection in the mouth known as thrush. Wash the child's face after treatment to avoid possible skin irritation.
- Use Pulmicort (budesonide) with a jet nebulizer machine only. Do not swallow. Do not mix with other nebulizer medicines.
- Throw away any unused Pulmicort (budesonide) ampules 2 weeks after opening the protective aluminium foil envelope.
- Before opening, gently shake the Pulmicort (budesonide) ampule using a circular motion.
- Always have a rescue inhaler handy near you or with the child.

## Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Effects on eyes

Using Pulmicort (budesonide) for a long time can raise eye pressure, worsen glaucoma, and cause cataracts (cloudy lenses in the eyes). Talk to the child's pediatrician right away if the child experiences blurry vision, eye discomfort, or other changes in his or her vision after using Pulmicort (budesonide). Do not let the medicine enter the child's eyes.

### Sudden-onset breathing problems

Rarely, some people have had trouble breathing right after using Pulmicort (budesonide). Treat right away with a fast-acting (rescue) inhaler, and stop taking Pulmicort (budesonide). Talk to your child's pediatrician about switching to another medicine that can help treat asthma.

### Weakened immune system

Steroid medicines like Pulmicort (budesonide) can weaken the immune system, meaning that infections can become more serious, and it can take longer to fight off infections. Keep up with the child's vaccinations, and talk to the child's pediatrician if the child develops any infections, including chicken pox.