
Inhaled Bronchodilator Medication ~ Anticholinergic ~

Other names for this medication:

- Atrovent – ipratropium bromide
- Spiriva – tiotropium bromide monohydrate

How does this medication work?

This medication helps the muscles around the bronchial tubes in the lungs to relax. This widens or bronchodilates the tubes and improves breathing. This medication also makes the muscle less likely to contract and narrow the tubes in response to exercise, cold air and irritants such as dust and cigarette smoke.

How fast and long does this medication work?

- **Atrovent:** This depends on how you are advised to use it. It takes about 30 minutes to begin working. The effects can last for 4 to 6 hours. You may be advised to take it once a day or you may be advised to take it up to 4 times a day. Be sure to follow your instructions.
- **Spiriva:** It can begin to work in 1 to 2 hours. However, it may take several days before you get the full effects.

These medications are also long-acting bronchodilators.

How much medication do I take and how often?

Take this medication on a regular basis as directed by your doctor or health care provider.

While taking this medication you may notice:

- headache
- dry mouth
- bad taste in mouth
- constipation

Dry mouth often goes away. If not, talk to your health care provider about what you can do to help.

Consult your doctor if:

- this medication is less effective than usual
- you have trouble passing urine

If any of these occur, you may need other treatment.

Consult your doctor to avoid problems with day to day life and dangerous attacks.

When your asthma may be out of control:

Anticholinergic medication is safe when not overused. Frequent use is a sign that your asthma is out of control. Out of control asthma can be dangerous. Your doctor or health care provider will explain what to do if you feel your asthma is out of control.

You must get treatment with other medications. If you do not know what to do, contact your doctor or health care provider.