

Pharmacologic properties:

Albuterol is primarily a beta-2 agonist that produces bronchodilation with limited cardiovascular side effects due to its high specificity for beta-2 receptors. Onset is within 15 minutes; peak effect is in 60-90 minutes. Therapeutic effects may be active up to 5 hours.

Indications:

- Acute bronchospasm (wheezing) due to asthma, COPD or allergic reactions

Contraindications:

- Known hypersensitivity

Precautions:

- Use cautiously in patients with coronary artery disease, hypertension, hyperthyroidism, diabetes
- Epinephrine should not be used at the same time as albuterol, however, either may be used subsequent to a failure of the other

Side effects/ adverse reactions:

- Nervousness
- Tremor
- Tachycardia
- Hypertension
- Nausea
- Vomiting

Dosage and administration:

- Each unit dose delivers 2.5 mg of Albuterol Sulfate in 3 ml total solution in adult and pediatric patients

Adult

- Administer 1 vial (2.5 mg) of premixed single unit dose via a nebulizer at 6 L/minute.

Pediatric

≤ 10 kg, administer 1.25 mg (1.5 mL of vial) diluted in 2 mL of Normal Saline.

> 10 kg, administer adult dose.