

<b>Medication:</b> Ipratropium Bromide	<b>PDN:</b> 6945.05	<b>Last Updated:</b> August 21 2025	<b>PMD:</b> Andrew Travers*	<b>PDC:</b> Tanya Fraser*	Page 1 of 2
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## **IPRATROPIUM BROMIDE (Atrovent)**

### **1.0 Classification**

- Anticholinergic
- Parasympatholytic

### **2.0 Mechanism of Action**

- Causes bronchodilation and dries respiratory tract secretions by blocking acetylcholine receptors.

### **3.0 Indications**

- Shortness of breath with signs of bronchospasm (e.g., wheezes, EtCO<sub>2</sub> changes indicative of bronchospasm, etc.)

### **4.0 Contraindications**

- Known hypersensitivity
- Bladder neck obstruction
- Acute narrow (closed) angle glaucoma

### **5.0 Precautions**

- Make every effort to avoid getting the spray or mist into the patient's eyes.

### **6.0 Routes**

- May be given by metered dose inhaler (MDI)
- MDI can be administered via CPAP or BVM utilizing either a built in MDI port or an MDI adapter.

### **7.0 Dosage**

#### **Adult**

- MDI: 4 puffs with MDI q 20 minutes, up to 3 doses.
  - Each dose should be approximately 30 seconds apart to allow canister to recharge.

#### **Pediatric**

- Not routinely administered to pediatric patients (under 16 years of age) in the out of hospital environment.

### **8.0 Supplied**

- Metered dose inhaler (canister with plastic inhaler device)
  - 20 mcg per metered dose (puff)

### **9.0 May Be Given By**

- PCP/ACP/CCP

## **10.0 Adverse Effects**

- Tachycardia, palpitations
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Anxiety
- Nausea/vomiting
- Blurred vision

## **11.0 Special Notes**

- A spacer (holding chamber) should be used when administering by MDI directly to the patient (i.e., when not administered through the MDI adapter or port).
- 2 puffs are equivalent to approximately a 250 mcg nebule.
- Atrovent is most commonly given in conjunction with a beta-agonist.
- If a patient has access to an MDI in the home, use the patient's own supply.
- Pregnancy category B [if there is a clinical need for it, Category B drugs are considered safe to use]

## **12.0 References**

- Adult Respiratory Distress Clinical Practice Guideline
- Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (CPS)
- Atrovent HFA drug monograph

\*Electronically Signed  
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