

Pediatric Asthma Treatments

Medication class	Examples	Common side effects	Counseling points
Short acting bronchodilators	Albuterol (Ventolin, Proair, Proventil)	Excitement, nervousness, tremor, upper respiratory tract infection	If giving this drug to prevent breathing problems with exercise, give 5-20 minutes before your child exercises.
Inhaled Corticosteroids	Flovent HFAb (fluticasone, discontinued soon), Pulmicort (budesonide), Qvar (beclomethasone)	Cough, hoarseness, thrush, throat pain, upper respiratory tract infection	Rinse mouth after use
Combination inhalers	Advair (fluticasone-salmeterol), Symbicort (budesonide-formoterol) Breo Ellipta (fluticasone-salmeterol)	Headache, upper respiratory tract infection, thrush	Rinse mouth after use
Leukotriene modifiers	Singular (montelukast)	Stomach pain, headache, upper respiratory infection, cough, sore throat, earache	Has been linked to suicidal thinking, depression, agitation, aggression, hallucination. This is rare but parents/caregivers should be counseled to monitor.
Steroids	Dexamethasone Prednisone Prednisolone	Upset stomach, headache, dizziness, agitation/irritability, trouble sleeping	Try to take in the morning to prevent insomnia <i>Talk to provider about any new medication once the steroid is complete</i>