# Albuterol

MEDICATION

## THE DRUG

Class: bronchodilator, beta2 agonist

Beta 2 receptor agonist with some beta 1 activity

Relaxes bronchial smooth muscle with little effect on heart rate

## USE IT FOR

- Reactive airway disease causing bronchospasm — asthma and COPD
- Asthma: reversible bronchial smooth muscle spasm and mucus production
- COPD: airway irreversibly obstructed; lungs not able to empty (air trapping)
- Presenting signs listed: wheezing, dyspnea, chest pain, coughing

## DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Hypersensitivity to the drug
- Severe hypersensitivity to milk proteins (spelled 'mild proteins' on the original)
- Precautions: history of cardiovascular disease
- Administration aerosolizes particles — avoid in the presence of high-consequence pathogens

## DOSE

**Adult:** 2.5 mg nebulized

**Peds:** Not stated on the page

**Repeat:** MDI assisted: typically 2 puffs (directions on inhaler)

## WATCH FOR

- Nausea, rash, dizziness, nervousness, headache, tremors, insomnia, fever

## PEARLS

- Onset is immediate

**Take Home Message:**

Albuterol 2.5 mg nebulized relaxes bronchial smooth muscle for asthma and COPD bronchospasm.