

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

AirSalb CFC-free inhaler 100 microgram/dose

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each metered dose contains 100 micrograms of salbutamol (as sulphate).
Each delivered dose through the mouthpiece is 90 micrograms of salbutamol (as sulphate).

Excipient with known effect
Each metered dose contains 0.72mg of anhydrous ethanol.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Pressurised inhalation, suspension

White suspension.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Symptomatic treatment of reversible bronchoconstriction due to bronchial asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) including chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

Prophylaxis of exercise and allergen induced asthma.

AirSalb is particularly useful for the relief of symptoms of asthma, providing it does not delay the introduction and regular use of inhaled corticosteroid therapy.

AirSalb is indicated in adults, adolescents and children aged 4 to 11 years.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

AirSalb is intended for inhalation only.

Posology

The aim should be individual dose.

Adults and adolescents aged 12 years and older

Relief of attacks: 1-2 inhalations as required.

Maximum dose: 8 inhalations per day.

To prevent allergen- or exercise-induced symptoms, two inhalations should be taken 10-15 minutes before challenge.

Paediatric population

The effect of salbutamol for children < 4 years has not yet been determined.

Available data are described in section 5.1. Dose recommendations cannot be made.

Children below 12 years of age

Relief of attacks: 1 inhalation as required. The dose may be increased to two inhalations if required.

Maximum dose: On-demand use of salbutamol should not exceed 2 inhalations four times daily. Reliance on such frequent supplementary use, or a sudden increase in dose, indicates poorly controlled or deteriorating asthma (see section 4.4).

To prevent allergen- or exercise-induced symptoms, one inhalation, or two if necessary, should be taken 10-15 minutes before challenge. The maximum dose is up to two inhalations 4 times daily.

Method of administration

Handling

A faulty inhalation technique with pressurised inhalers is very common. It is therefore important that the patient be instructed in the correct inhalation technique. The patient's inhalation technique should be checked at visits.

AirSalb may be used with a Vortex[®] or AeroChamber[®] Plus spacer device by children and patients who find it difficult to synchronise aerosol actuation with inspiration.

For instructions on the use of the Vortex[®] or AeroChamber[®] Plus spacer device please refer to the information leaflets of the spacer devices.

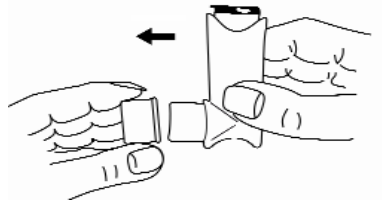
Priming/Re-priming the device

Before AirSalb is used for the first time, or if it has not been used for 7 days or more, it is important to check that the spray is functioning. The protective cap should be removed, the inhaler be shaken and sprayed twice into the air.

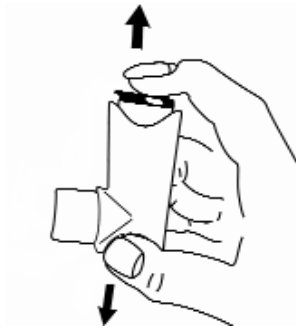
Instructions for use

The inhalation should be performed sitting or standing, wherever possible.

1. The protective cap should be removed. The inside and outside should be checked to make sure that the mouthpiece is clean.



2. The inhaler should be shaken thoroughly for a couple of seconds before use.

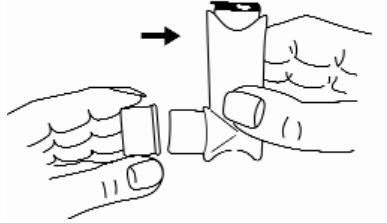


3. The inhaler should be held upright with the bottom of the container upwards. The thumb should be put on the base, below the mouthpiece. The patient should breathe out as far as is comfortable, but he should not breathe into the mouthpiece.
4. The mouthpiece should be placed in the mouth between the teeth and the lips should be closed around it without biting it.
5. Just after starting to breathe in through the mouth, the patient should press down the canister to release a puff while still breathing in steadily and deeply.



6. The breath should be held, the inhaler taken from the mouth and the finger from the top of the inhaler. The breath should be held for a few seconds, or as long as is comfortable.
7. If another puff is required, the inhaler should be kept upright and the patient should wait about half a minute before repeating steps 2 to 6.

8. After use, the mouthpiece should always be covered to keep out dust and fluff. The mouthpiece cover should be replaced firmly and snapped into position.



Cleaning

For instructions on cleaning the inhaler see section 6.6.

Inhaler content:

The inhaler should be shaken to check the remaining amount of medicine in it. AirSalb should not be used if no liquid can be detected in the inhaler while shaking.

Cold temperature use:

If the inhaler has been stored beneath 0 °C, it has to be warmed in the hands of the patient for 2 minutes, be shaken and sprayed twice into the air before use.

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Treatment of asthma normally follows a gradually adjusted programme, and the patient's response to therapy must be monitored clinically and with lung function tests.

Patients who are prescribed regular anti-inflammatory therapy (e.g. inhaled corticosteroids) should be advised to continue taking their anti-inflammatory medication even when symptoms decrease, and they do not require AirSalb.

An increased use of short-acting bronchodilators, in particular beta-2 agonists to relieve symptoms indicates deterioration of asthma control, and patients should be warned to seek medical advice as soon as possible. Under these conditions, the patient's therapy plan should be reassessed.

Overuse of short-acting beta-agonists may mask the progression of the underlying disease and contribute to deteriorating asthma control, leading to an increased risk of severe asthma exacerbations and mortality.

Patients who take more than twice a week “as needed” salbutamol, not counting prophylactic use prior to exercise, should be re-evaluated (i.e., daytime symptoms, night-time awakening, and activity limitation due to asthma) for proper treatment adjustment as these patients are at risk for overuse of salbutamol.

Bronchodilators should not be the only or main treatment in patients with persistent asthma.

In the following cases AirSalb should only be used with caution and if strictly indicated:

- serious cardiac disorders, in particular recent myocardial infarction
- coronary heart disease, hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy and tachyarrhythmia
- severe and untreated hypertension
- aneurysm
- diabetes which is difficult to control
- pheochromocytoma
- uncontrolled hyperthyroidism
- untreated hypokalaemia.

Cardiovascular effects may be seen with sympathomimetic medicinal products, including salbutamol. There is some evidence from post-marketing data and published literature of rare occurrences of myocardial ischaemia associated with beta agonists. Patients with underlying severe heart disease (e.g. ischaemic heart disease, arrhythmia or severe heart failure) who are receiving salbutamol should be warned to seek medical advice if they experience chest pain or other symptoms of worsening heart disease. Attention should be paid to assessment of symptoms such as dyspnoea and chest pain, as they may be of either respiratory or cardiac origin.

Hypokalaemia can be potentiated in cases of concomitant treatment with xanthine derivatives, steroids or diuretics, and in hypoxia. The serum potassium level should therefore be monitored in risk patients, especially in the treatment of acute severe asthma with high doses of AirSalb.

When initiating treatment with AirSalb in diabetics, extra checks of blood glucose levels are recommended, as beta₂-agonists increase the risk of hyperglycaemia.

Sudden and progressive deterioration of asthma control is potentially life-threatening. If the effect of AirSalb becomes less effective, the patient should be warned to seek medical advice, as repeated inhalations must not delay the initiation of other important therapy. Treatment with increased doses of corticosteroids should be considered.

As with other inhalation therapy, paradoxical bronchospasm may occur, with increased wheezing immediately after administration. Should this occur, the preparation should be immediately discontinued and replaced by alternative treatment.

AirSalb contains ethanol

This medicinal product contains 0.72 mg of alcohol (ethanol) in each metered dose which is equivalent to 2.1% w/w. The amount in metered dose of this medicinal product is equivalent to less than 1 ml beer or 1 ml wine.

The small amount of alcohol in this medicinal product will not have any noticeable effects.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Hypokalaemia may be potentiated in cases of concomitant treatment with xanthine derivatives, steroids or diuretics (see section 4.4).

Salbutamol and non-selective β -receptor blocking medicinal products should not usually be prescribed together. In patients with asthma administration of β -receptor blocking medicinal products is associated with a risk of severe bronchoconstriction.

When administering halogenated anaesthetics, e.g. halothane, methoxyflurane or enflurane, to patients treated with salbutamol an increased risk of severe dysrhythmia and hypotension must be expected. If anaesthesia with halogenated anaesthetics is planned, care should be taken to ensure that salbutamol is not used for at least 6 hours before initiation of the anaesthesia.

Monoamine oxidase inhibitors and tricyclic antidepressants may increase the risk of cardiovascular side-effects

Salbutamol induced hypokalemia may increase susceptibility to digoxin induced arrhythmias

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

Studies in animals have shown reproductive toxicity. Safety in pregnant women has not been established. Salbutamol should not be used during pregnancy unless clearly necessary.

Breast-feeding

As salbutamol is probably secreted in breast milk, its use in breast-feeding mothers requires careful consideration. A risk to the suckling child cannot be excluded. A decision on whether to continue/discontinue breast-feeding or to continue/discontinue therapy with AirSalb should be made taking into account

the benefit of breast-feeding to the child and the benefit of salbutamol therapy to the woman.

Fertility

There is no information on the effects of salbutamol on human fertility. There were no adverse effects on fertility in animals (see section 5.3).

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

No studies on the effects on the ability to drive and use machines have been performed.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Undesirable effects are classified according to organ system and frequency. The frequency range is defined as very common ($\geq 1/10$), common ($\geq 1/100$ to $< 1/10$), uncommon ($\geq 1/1000$ to $< 1/100$), rare ($\geq 1/10,000$ to $< 1/1000$), very rare ($< 1/10,000$) and not known (cannot be estimated from the available data). Very common, common and uncommon undesirable effects have been obtained from clinical trials. Rare, very rare and unknown undesirable effects were generally determined from spontaneous post-marketing reports. Within each frequency grouping, undesirable effects are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

Organ system	Adverse reactions	Frequency
Immune system disorders	Hypersensitivity reactions incl. angioedema, collapse, bronchospasm, hypotension, urticaria	Very rare
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	Hypokalaemia Lactic acidosis (see section 4.9)	Rare Not known
Nervous system disorders	Tremor, headache Hyperactivity, sleep disturbances	Common Very rare
Cardiac disorders	Tachycardia Palpitations Cardiac arrhythmia (e.g. atrial fibrillation, supraventricular tachycardia and extrasystoles)	Common Uncommon Very rare

	Myocardial ischaemia* (see section 4.4)	Not known
Vascular disorders	Peripheral vasodilatation	Rare
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders	Paradoxical bronchospasm**	Very rare
Gastrointestinal disorders	Irritation in mouth and throat	Uncommon
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	Muscle cramps	Common

*Reported spontaneously in post-marketing data therefore frequency regarded as unknown.

** As with other inhalation therapy, paradoxical bronchospasm may occur with an immediate increase in wheezing after dosing. This should be treated immediately with an alternative presentation or a different fast-acting inhaled bronchodilator. Salbutamol should be discontinued immediately, the patient assessed, and, if necessary, alternative therapy instituted.

Undesirable effects typical of beta2-agonists, such as skeletal muscle tremor and palpitations, can occur especially at the beginning of treatment, and are often dose-dependent.

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the Yellow Card Scheme (www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard) or search for MHRA Yellow Card in Google play or Apple App store.

4.9 Overdose

Symptoms of an overdose

In case of overdose, the adverse reactions already named may appear very rapidly and possibly to an increased extent.

Typical symptoms are:

tachycardia, palpitations, arrhythmias, agitation, dyssomnia, chest pain and severe tremor, particularly affecting hands, but also the whole body.

Gastrointestinal complaints including nausea can occur, particularly after oral intoxication.

Psychotic reactions have uncommonly been observed after excessive salbutamol doses.

In association with overdose of salbutamol, displacements of potassium into the intracellular space may occur with the consequence of hypokalaemia as well as hyperglycaemia.

Lactic acidosis has been reported in association with high therapeutic doses as well as overdoses of short-acting beta-agonist therapy, therefore monitoring for elevated serum lactate and consequent metabolic acidosis (particularly if there is persistence or worsening of tachypnoea despite resolution of other signs of bronchospasm such as wheezing) may be indicated in the setting of overdose.

Therapeutic measures in case of an overdose

Treatment of overdoses with beta-sympathomimetics is mainly symptomatic. The following measures can be recommended:

- Gastric lavage should be considered if large quantities of the medicinal product have been swallowed inadvertently. Activated charcoal and laxatives may have a positive influence on undesired absorption.
- Cardiac symptoms may be treated with a cardioselective beta-blocker, but an elevated risk that bronchospasticity occurs in patients with bronchial asthma is to be borne in mind.
- ECG monitoring is indicated for cardiac supervision.
- In case of more pronounced hypotension, volume substitution (e.g. plasma substitutes) is recommended.

The development of hypokalaemia must be expected, hence appropriate monitoring of the electrolyte balance and, if necessary, substitutions are to be recommended while heeding a possible preceding treatment with other medicinal products that can induce hypokalaemia, hyperlipidemia, ketonemia.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Drugs for obstructive airway diseases. Selective beta-2-adrenoreceptor agonists.

ATC code: R03AC02

Salbutamol is an adrenergic beta-receptor stimulant with a selective effect on the beta₂-receptors of the bronchi, which produces bronchodilatation. The bronchodilator effect occurs within a few minutes after inhalation and reaches its maximum after 30-60 minutes. It generally lasts at least 4 hours. With inhalation the bronchodilator effect is not related to the serum concentration. Adrenergic beta₂-stimulants have also been shown to increase the reduced mucociliary clearance that occurs in obstructive pulmonary disease, and thus facilitate the coughing up of viscous secretion.

The active substance in AirSalb is micronised salbutamol sulphate suspended in liquid non-freon-based propellant (norflurane).

Special Populations

Children < 4 years of age

Paediatric clinical studies conducted in patients < 4 years with bronchospasm associated with reversible obstructive airway disease, showed that salbutamol pressurised inhalation, suspension was well tolerated and had a safety profile comparable to that in children over 4 years, adolescents and adults.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Salbutamol administered intravenously has a half life of 4 to 6 hours and is cleared partly renally and partly by metabolism to the inactive 4'-O-sulphate (phenolic sulphate) which is also excreted primarily in the urine. The faeces are a minor route of excretion.

After administration by the inhaled route between 10 and 20% of the dose reaches the lower airways. The remainder is retained in the delivery system or is deposited in the oropharynx from where it is swallowed. The fraction deposited in the airways is absorbed into the pulmonary tissues and circulation, but is not metabolised by the lung. On reaching the systemic circulation it becomes accessible to hepatic metabolism and is excreted, primarily in the urine, as unchanged substance and as the phenolic sulphate. The swallowed portion of an inhaled dose is absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract and undergoes considerable first-pass metabolism to the phenolic sulphate. Both unchanged substance and conjugate are excreted primarily in the urine. Most of a dose of salbutamol given intravenously, orally or by inhalation is excreted within 72 hours. Salbutamol is bound to plasma proteins to the extent of 10%.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Preclinical data revealed no special hazard for humans based on conventional studies of safety, pharmacology, repeated dose toxicity, genotoxicity, carcinogenic potential and toxicity to reproduction. The observed effects in the preclinical studies were related to the beta-adrenergic activity of salbutamol.

In common with other potent selective β_2 -receptor agonists, salbutamol has been shown to be teratogenic in mice when given subcutaneously. In a reproductive study, 9.3% of fetuses were found to have cleft palate at 2.5mg/kg, 4 times the maximum human oral dose. In rats, treatment at the levels of 0.5, 2.32, 10.75 and 50mg/kg/day orally throughout pregnancy resulted in no significant fetal abnormalities. The only toxic effect was an increase in neonatal mortality at the highest dose level as the result of lack of maternal care. Reproductive studies in the rabbit at doses of 50mg/kg/day orally (i.e. 78 times the maximum human oral dose) have shown fetuses with treatment related changes; these included open eyelids (ablepharia), secondary palate clefts (palatoschisis), changes in ossification of the frontal bones of the cranium (cranioschisis) and limb flexure.

The non-chlorofluorocarbon propellant, HFA 134a, has been shown to have no toxic effect at very high vapour concentrations, far in excess of those likely to be experienced by patients, in a wide range of animal species exposed daily for periods of two years.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Norflurane (HFA 134a)
Anhydrous Ethanol
Oleic acid

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life

3 years

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Do not store above 30 °C.

Store the inhaler lying flat or in an inverted position, with the mouthpiece pointing downwards.

The canister contains a pressurised liquid. Do not expose to temperatures higher than 50°C, even for a short period of time.

Protect from heat, direct sunlight and frost!

Do not pierce the container, even when empty.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Aluminium container with metering valve and plastic applicator.

Packs containing

200 metered actuations (equivalent to 8.5 g pressurised inhalation, suspension)

2 x 200 metered actuations (equivalent to 2 x 8.5 g pressurised inhalation, suspension)

3 x 200 metered actuations (equivalent to 3 x 8.5 g pressurised inhalation, suspension)

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

To prevent the inhaler blocking up, it is important to clean it at least once a week, following the instructions below. If the inhaler does block up, the same cleaning instructions should be followed.

To clean the inhaler:

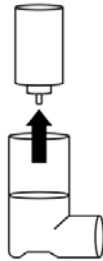
1. The metal canister should be pulled out of the plastic case of the inhaler and the mouthpiece cover should be removed.
2. The plastic case and the mouthpiece cover should be rinsed in warm water. If a build up of medicine is noticed around the mouthpiece, the patient should not attempt to unblock it with a sharp object, such as a pin. A mild detergent may be added to the water, then the mouthpiece should be rinsed thoroughly with clean water before drying. The metal canister should not be put into water.
3. The plastic case and the mouthpiece cover should be left to dry in a warm place. Excessive heat should be avoided.
4. The canister and mouthpiece cover should be replaced.

If patients need to use the inhaler immediately, following steps can be conducted:

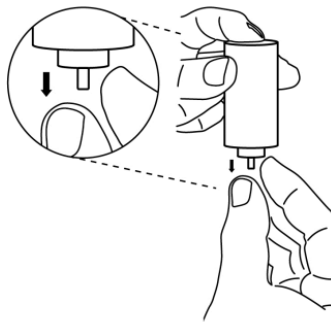
1. Inhaler should be held upright with the bottom of the canister upwards. The metal canister should be turned clockwise inside the plastic case by one full turn.



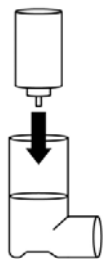
2. The metal canister should be pulled out of the plastic case of the inhaler.



3. The bottom of the canister should be held upwards. With two fingers of the other hand, patients should gently move the small white plastic stem by pulling it down carefully. They must not use any tools like e. g. tongs.



4. The canister should be replaced into the plastic case.



Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Sandoz Limited
Maxis 1

Western Road
Bracknell
United Kingdom
RG12 1RF

8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

PL 04416/0785

**9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE
AUTHORISATION**

Date of first authorisation: 17/06/2009

Date of latest renewal: 03/03/2013

10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

03/07/2025