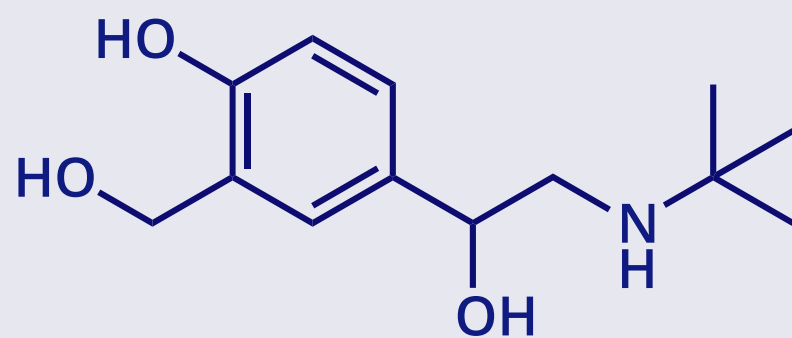


THE CHEMISTRY OF ASTHMA INHALERS

Asthma medication commonly comes in two different colours of inhalers: blue and brown. Though these colours can vary, usually the medication can be classed as either a 'reliever' or a 'preventer'. The identity and function of the chemical compounds in each vary.

RELIEVERS



SALBUTAMOL

(also known as albuterol in the US)



Bronchodilator



Short-acting



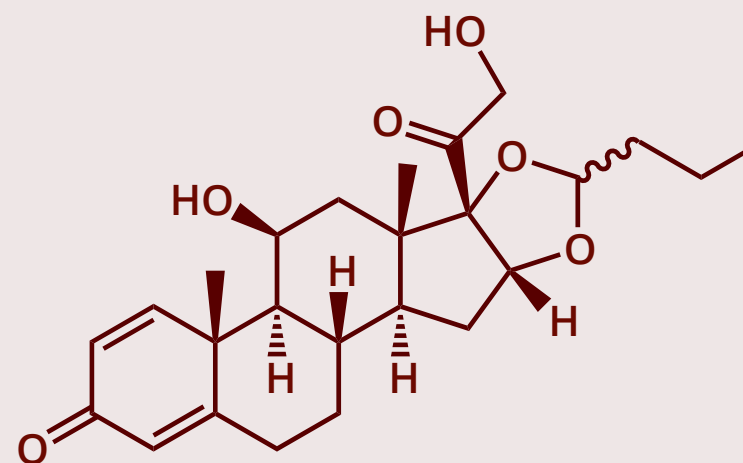
Mean Duration



Maximal Effect

Relievers, such as salbutamol, are taken for the immediate relief of asthma symptoms. They cause the airways to widen by relaxing the muscles in the lungs. Usually, they are taken 'nebulised' - that is, turned into a fine mist that is then inhaled - and their action is apparent after a short amount of time, making them of great use in cases of asthma attacks. Salbutamol is commonly marketed as Ventolin.

PREVENTERS



BUDESONIDE

(sold under trade name Pulmicort)



Anti-inflammatory



Long-acting



Onset of Action



For Peak Effect

Preventers help asthma sufferers by acting to reduce inflammation and keep their airways open. They are commonly steroids, and are only useful for prevention - they won't provide any relief if you are already experiencing an asthma attack. It has to be taken daily, and its full effects are not reached for several weeks. Though there are several different drugs used as preventers, they all function similarly.

