

SYMBICORT - budesonide and formoterol fumarate dihydrate aerosol
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AstraZeneca LP

17.6 Medication Guide

SYMBICORT 80/4.5

(budesonide 80 mcg and formoterol fumarate dihydrate 4.5 mcg) Inhalation Aerosol

SYMBICORT 160/4.5

(budesonide 160 mcg and formoterol fumarate dihydrate 4.5 mcg) Inhalation Aerosol

Read the Medication Guide that comes with SYMBICORT before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This Medication Guide does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about SYMBICORT?

SYMBICORT can cause serious side effects, including:

1. People with asthma who take long-acting beta2-adrenegic agonist (LABA) medicines such as formoterol (one of the medicines in SYMBICORT) have an increased risk of death from asthma problems. It is not known whether budesonide, the other medicine in SYMBICORT, reduces the risk of death from asthma problems seen with formoterol.

- Call your healthcare provider if breathing problems worsen over time while using SYMBICORT. You may need different treatment.
- Get emergency medical care if:
 - breathing problems worsen quickly, and
 - you use your rescue inhaler medicine, but it does not relieve your breathing problems.

2. SYMBICORT should be used only if your healthcare provider decides that your asthma is not well controlled with a long-term asthma-control medicine, such as an inhaled corticosteroid.

3. When your asthma is well controlled, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking SYMBICORT. Your healthcare provider will decide if you can stop SYMBICORT without loss of asthma control. Your healthcare provider may prescribe a different long-term asthma-control medicine for you, such as an inhaled corticosteroid.

4. Children and adolescents who take LABA medicines may have an increased risk of being hospitalized for asthma problems.

What is SYMBICORT?

SYMBICORT combines an inhaled corticosteroid medicine, budesonide (the same medicine found in PULMICORT FLEXHALER), and a long-acting beta2-agonist medicine (LABA), formoterol (the same medicine found in FORADIL AEROLIZER).

- Inhaled corticosteroids help to decrease inflammation in the lungs. Inflammation in the lungs can lead to asthma symptoms.
- LABA medicines are used in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma. LABA medicines help the muscles around the airways in your lungs stay relaxed to prevent asthma symptoms, such as wheezing and shortness of breath. These symptoms can happen when the muscles around the airways tighten. This makes it hard to breathe. In severe cases, wheezing can stop your breathing and may lead to death if not treated right away.

SYMBICORT is used for asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) as follows:

Asthma

SYMBICORT is used to control symptoms of asthma, and prevent symptoms such as wheezing in adults and children ages 12 and older.

SYMBICORT contains formoterol (the same medicine found in FORADIL AEROLIZER).

LABA medicines such as formoterol increase the risk of death from asthma problems.

SYMBICORT is not for adults and children with asthma who:

o are well controlled with an asthma-control medicine such as a low to medium dose of an inhaled corticosteroid medicine

o have sudden asthma symptoms

It is not known if SYMBICORT is safe and effective in children ages 6 to less than 12 years of age with asthma.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

COPD is a chronic lung disease that includes chronic bronchitis, emphysema, or both.

SYMBICORT 160/4.5 mcg is used long term, 2 times each day to help improve lung function for better breathing in adults with COPD.

Who should not use SYMBICORT?

Do not use SYMBICORT:

- to treat sudden severe symptoms of asthma or COPD.
- if you are allergic to any of the ingredients in SYMBICORT. See the end of the Medication Guide for a list of ingredients in SYMBICORT.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before using SYMBICORT?

Tell your healthcare provider about all of your health conditions, including if you:

- o have heart problems
- o have high blood pressure
- o have seizures
- o have thyroid problems
- o have diabetes
- o have liver problems
- o have osteoporosis
- o have an immune system problem
- o have eye problems such as increased pressure in the eye, glaucoma, or cataracts
- o are allergic to any medicines
- o are exposed to chicken pox or measles
- o are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if SYMBICORT may harm your unborn baby.
- o are breastfeeding. Budesonide, one of the active ingredients in SYMBICORT, passes into breast milk. You and your healthcare provider should decide if you will take SYMBICORT while breast-feeding.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. SYMBICORT and certain other medicines may interact with each other. This may cause serious side effects. Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take antifungal and anti-HIV medicines.

Know all the medicines you take. Keep a list and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist each time you get a new medicine.

How do I use SYMBICORT?

See the step-by-step instructions for using SYMBICORT at the end of this Medication Guide. Do not use SYMBICORT unless your healthcare provider has taught you and you understand everything. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have any questions.

- Use SYMBICORT exactly as prescribed. Do not use SYMBICORT more often than prescribed. SYMBICORT comes in 2 strengths. Your healthcare provider has prescribed the strength that is best for you. Note the differences between SYMBICORT and your other inhaled medications, including the differences in prescribed use and physical appearance.
- SYMBICORT should be taken every day as 2 puffs in the morning and 2 puffs in the evening.
- If you miss a dose of SYMBICORT, you should take your next dose at the same time you normally do. Do not take SYMBICORT more often or use more puffs than you have been prescribed.
- Rinse your mouth with water and spit the water out after each dose (2 puffs) of SYMBICORT. Do not swallow the water. This will help to lessen the chance of getting a fungus infection (thrush) in the mouth and throat.
- Do not spray SYMBICORT in your eyes. If you accidentally get SYMBICORT in your eyes, rinse your eyes with water, and if redness or irritation persists, consult your healthcare provider.
- Do not change or stop any medicines used to control or treat your breathing problems. Your healthcare provider will change your medicines as needed.
- While you are using SYMBICORT 2 times each day, do not use other medicines that contain a long-acting beta2-agonist (LABA) for any reason. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if any of your other medicine are LABA medicines.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if any of your other medicines are LABA medicines.
- SYMBICORT does not relieve sudden symptoms. Always have a rescue inhaler medicine with you to treat sudden symptoms. If you do not have a rescue inhaler, call your healthcare provider to have one prescribed for you.
- Call your healthcare provider or get medical care right away if:
 - o your breathing problems worsen with SYMBICORT
 - o you need to use your rescue inhaler medicine more often than usual
 - o your rescue inhaler medicine does not work as well for you at relieving symptoms
 - o you need to use 4 or more inhalations of rescue inhaler medicine for 2 or more days in a row
 - o you use one whole canister of your rescue inhaler medicine in 8 weeks' time

o your peak flow meter results decrease. Your healthcare provider will tell you the numbers that are right for you.

o your symptoms do not improve after using SYMBICORT regularly for 1 week.

What are the possible side effects with SYMBICORT?

SYMBICORT can cause serious side effects

- See “What is the most important information I should know about SYMBICORT?”
- Pneumonia and other lower respiratory tract infections. People with COPD have a higher chance of getting pneumonia and other lung infections. Inhaled corticosteroids may increase the chance of getting pneumonia. Call your healthcare provider if you notice any of these symptoms:
 - increase in mucus (sputum) production
 - change in mucus color
 - fever
 - chills
 - increased cough
 - increased breathing problems
- Serious allergic reactions including rash, hives, swelling of the face, mouth, and tongue, and breathing problems. Call your healthcare provider or get emergency medical care if you get any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction.
- Immune system effects and a higher chance for infections. Tell your healthcare provider about any signs of infection such as:
 - fever
 - pain
 - body aches
 - chills
 - feeling tired
 - nausea
 - vomiting
- Adrenal insufficiency. Adrenal insufficiency is a condition in which the adrenal glands do not make enough steroid hormones. This can happen when you stop taking oral corticosteroid medicines and start inhaled corticosteroid medicine.
- Using too much of a LABA medicine may cause: chest pain, increased blood pressure, a fast and irregular heartbeat, headache, tremor, and nervousness.
- Increased wheezing right after taking SYMBICORT. Always have a rescue inhaler with you to treat sudden wheezing.

- Eye problems including glaucoma and cataracts. You should have regular eye exams while using SYMBICORT.
- Lower bone mineral density. This can happen in people who have a high chance for low bone mineral density (osteoporosis). Your healthcare provider should check you for this during treatment with SYMBICORT.
- Slowed growth in children. A child's growth should be checked regularly while using SYMBICORT.
- Swelling of your blood vessels. This can happen in people with asthma. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have:
 - a feeling of pins and needles or numbness of your arms or legs
 - flu like symptoms
 - rash
 - pain and swelling of the sinuses
- Decreases in blood potassium levels (hypokalemia)
- Increases in blood sugar levels (hyperglycemia)

Common side effects of SYMBICORT include:

Patients with asthma:

- throat irritation
- headache
- upper respiratory tract infection
- throat pain
- inflammation of mucous membranes of the sinuses (sinusitis)
- flu
- back pain
- nasal congestion
- stomach discomfort
- vomiting
- thrush in the mouth and throat

Patients with COPD:

- throat irritation
- thrush in the mouth and throat
- lower respiratory tract infections, mostly infections and/or inflammation of the mucous membranes of the bronchial tubes (bronchitis)
- inflammation of mucous membranes in the sinuses (sinusitis)
- upper respiratory tract infection

Tell your healthcare provider about any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the side effects of SYMBICORT. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for more information.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

You may also report side effects to ASTRAZENECA at 1-800-236-9933.

How do I store SYMBICORT?

- Store SYMBICORT at room temperature between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).
- Store with the mouthpiece down.
- The contents of your SYMBICORT canister are under pressure. Do not puncture or throw the canister into a fire or incinerator. Do not use or store it near heat or open flame. Storage above 120°F may cause the canister to burst.
- Throw away SYMBICORT when the counter reaches zero (“0”) or 3 months after you take SYMBICORT out of its foil pouch, whichever comes first.
- Keep SYMBICORT and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General Information about SYMBICORT

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Do not use SYMBICORT for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give your SYMBICORT to other people, even if they have the same condition. It may harm them.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about SYMBICORT. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or pharmacist. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about SYMBICORT that was written for healthcare professionals. For more information, call 1-800-236-9933 or go to www.MySymbicort.com.

What are the ingredients in SYMBICORT?

Active ingredient: micronized budesonide and micronized formoterol fumarate dihydrate

Inactive ingredients: hydrofluoroalkane (HFA 227), povidone K25 USP, and polyethylene glycol 1000 NF

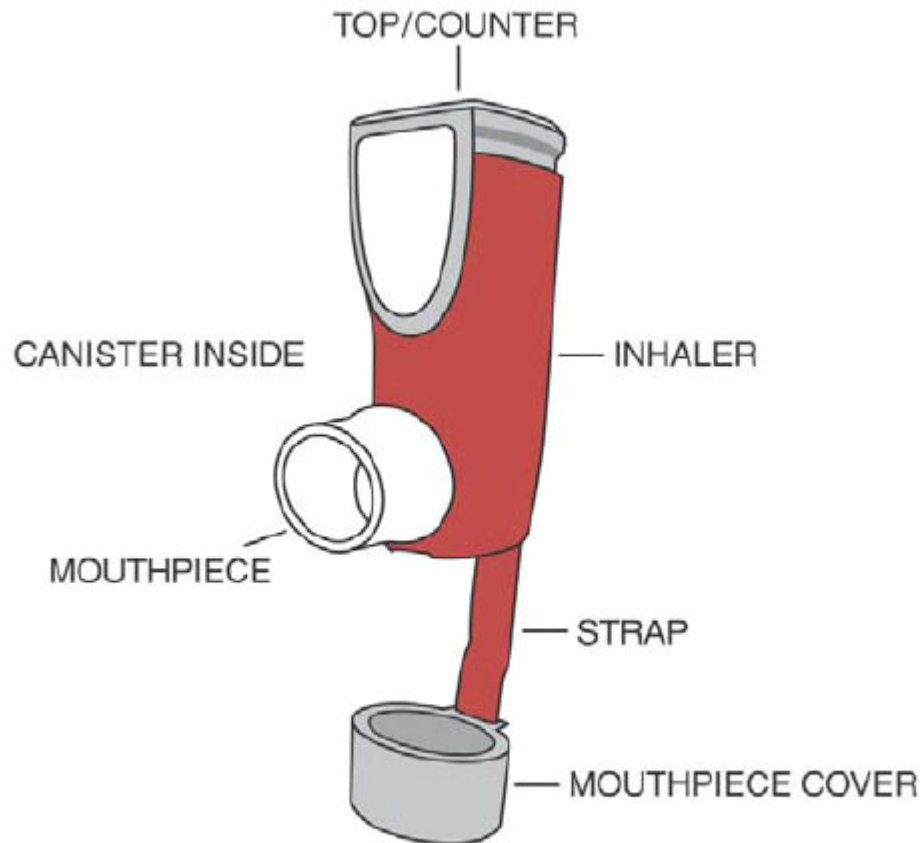


Figure 1

Upright Position

How to Use SYMBICORT

Follow the instructions below for using SYMBICORT. You will breathe-in (inhale) the medicine. If you have any questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Preparing your inhaler for use

1. Take your SYMBICORT out of the moisture-protective foil pouch before you use it for the first time and throw the foil away. Write the date that you open the foil pouch on the box.
2. A counter is attached to the top of the metal canister. The counter will count down each time you release a puff of SYMBICORT. The arrow points to the number of inhalations (puffs) left in the canister. The counter will stop counting at zero ("0").

3. Use the SYMBICORT canister only with the red SYMBICORT inhaler supplied with the product. Parts of the SYMBICORT inhaler should not be used with parts from any other inhalation product.

4. Shake your SYMBICORT inhaler well for 5 seconds right before each use. Remove the mouthpiece cover. Check the mouthpiece for foreign objects before use.

5. Priming Before you use SYMBICORT for the first time, you will need to prime it. To prime SYMBICORT, hold it in the upright position. See figure 1 above. Shake the SYMBICORT inhaler well for 5 seconds. Hold your SYMBICORT inhaler facing away from you and then release a test spray. Then shake it again for 5 seconds and release a second test spray. Your SYMBICORT inhaler is now primed and ready for use. After you have primed the SYMBICORT inhaler for the first time, the counter will read either 120 or 60, depending on which size was provided to you.

If you do not use your SYMBICORT inhaler for more than 7 days or if you drop it, you will need to prime again.

Ways to hold the SYMBICORT inhaler for use

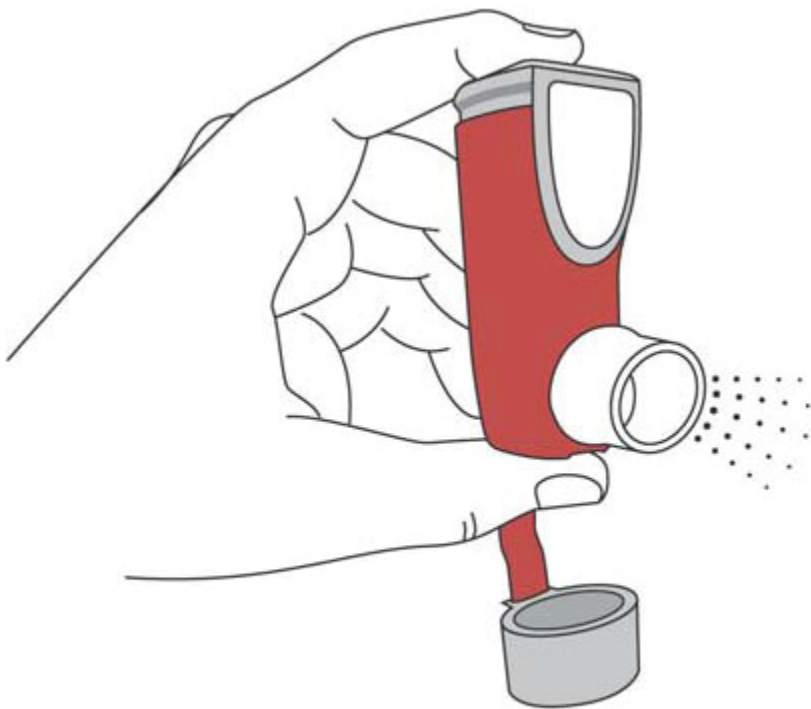


Figure 2

OR



Figure 3

Using your SYMBICORT inhaler

6. Shake your SYMBICORT inhaler well for 5 seconds. Remove the mouthpiece cover. Check the mouthpiece for foreign objects.

7. Breathe out fully (exhale). Hold the SYMBICORT inhaler up to your mouth. Place the white mouthpiece fully into your mouth and close your lips around it. Make sure that the SYMBICORT inhaler is upright and that the opening of the mouthpiece is pointing towards the back of your throat (see Figure 4).

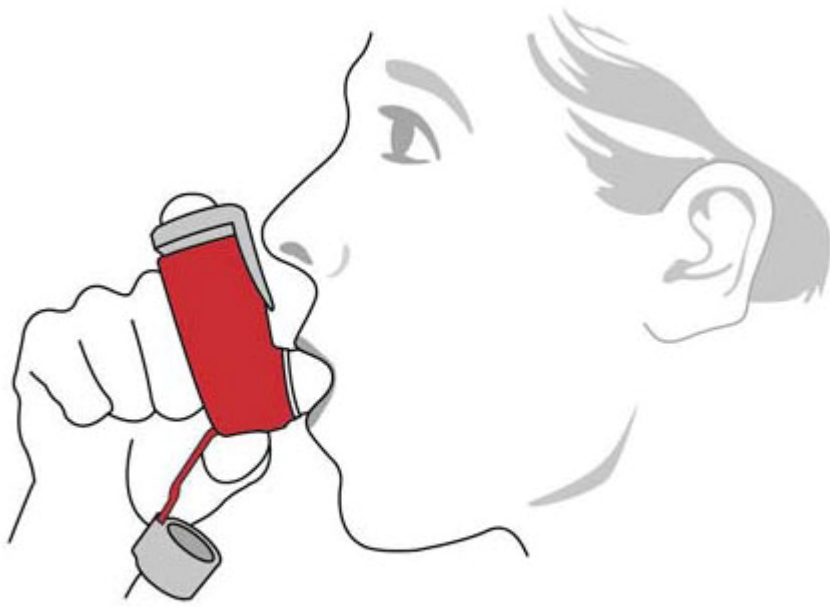


Figure 4

8. Breathe in (inhale) deeply and slowly through your mouth. Press down firmly and fully on the top of the counter on the SYMBICORT inhaler to release the medicine (see Figures 2 and 3).

9. Continue to breathe in (inhale) and hold your breath for about 10 seconds, or for as long as is comfortable. Before you breathe out (exhale), release your finger from the top of the counter. Keep the SYMBICORT inhaler upright and remove from your mouth.

10. Shake the SYMBICORT inhaler again for 5 seconds and repeat steps 7 to 9.

After using your SYMBICORT inhaler

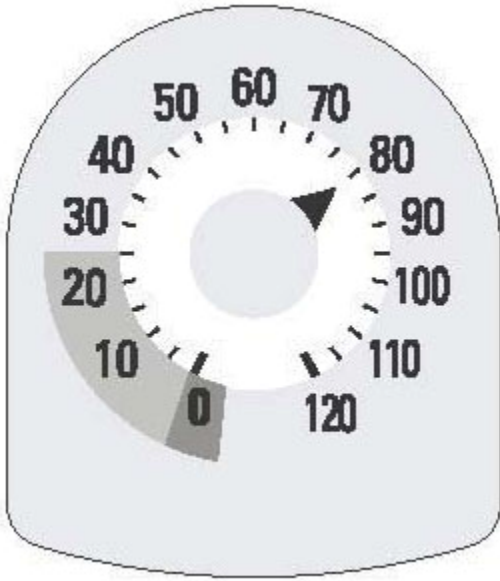
11. Replace the mouthpiece cover after use.

12. After you finish taking SYMBICORT (two puffs), rinse your mouth with water. Spit out the water. Do not swallow it.

Reading the counter

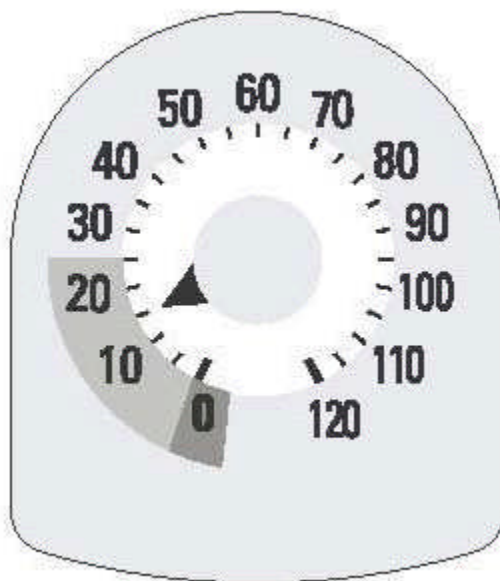
- The arrow on the counter on the top of the SYMBICORT inhaler points to the number of inhalations (puffs) left in your inhaler.

COUNTER



- The counter will count down each time you release a puff of medicine (either when preparing your SYMBICORT inhaler for use or when taking the medicine).
- When the arrow on the counter approaches 20, you will notice the beginning of a yellow area letting you know that it is time to call your healthcare provider for a refill.

COUNTER



- It is important that you pay attention to the number of inhalations (puffs) left in your SYMBICORT inhaler by reading the counter. Throw away SYMBICORT when the counter shows zero (“0”). Your SYMBICORT inhaler may not feel empty and it may continue to operate, but you will not get the right amount of medicine if you keep using it. Use a new SYMBICORT inhaler and follow the instructions for priming (instruction 5 above).

How to clean your SYMBICORT inhaler

Clean the white mouthpiece of your SYMBICORT inhaler every 7 days. To clean the mouthpiece:

- Remove the grey mouthpiece cover
- Wipe the inside and outside of the white mouthpiece opening with a clean, dry cloth
- Replace the mouthpiece cover
- Do not put the SYMBICORT inhaler into water
- Do not try to take apart your SYMBICORT inhaler

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