

Types of Long-term Asthma Medications

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Inhaled Corticosteroids

There are several different types of steroids. This medicine is not the same kind of steroid that some people use to build muscles. This medicine is very effective in treating the swelling in the airways. Inhaled steroids have few side effects. You should ask your doctor if you are worried about side effects. It is important to take this medication daily.



Brand names include:

Flovent Azmacort Advair
Beclovent Aerobid Pulmicort



Cromolyn Sodium/Nedocromil Sodium

Cromolyn and Nedocromil both work by reducing swelling in the airways. These medications must be taken at regular intervals every day, up to four times daily.

Brand Names include:

Intal Tilade

Leukotriene Modifiers

This medicine comes in the form of a pill. You take this kind of medicine daily to reduce swelling in the airways in the lungs.

Brand names include:

Accolate Singulair Zflo



Long Acting Beta agonists

These medications are similar to quick relief medications but they start working slower and last longer. They should only be used with other long-term medications, never alone. They should not be used to provide quick relief of symptoms.

Brand names include:

Serevent Foradil Volmax

Oral Corticosteroids

Oral corticosteroids are usually taken for a few days after a severe asthma episode. They come in the form of pills or syrup. Long-term use of this kind of medication can cause side effects. People with very severe asthma may take these daily.

Brand names include:

Prelone Pediapred Decadron

