

Bricanyl (brik-an-ill) is a medicine which is used in asthma, bronchospasm and treatment of premature labour. Bricanyl contains terbutaline. It is supplied by AstraZeneca UK Limited.

Your medicine

In breathing disorders, Bricanyl relaxes muscles in the air passages of the lungs. It helps to keep the airways open, making it easier to breathe.

Inhaled preparations of Bricanyl are fast acting. They can make your breathing easier and relieve bronchospasm within minutes.

Always have your inhaler with you in case you need it. Ask your prescriber or nurse for advice on what to do if you have an asthma attack.

You can use Bricanyl to prevent asthma attacks caused by triggers such as house dust, pollen, cats, dogs and exercise.

When you are having an asthma attack you should use a fast acting preparation of Bricanyl as directed by your prescriber. If your normal inhaled dose of Bricanyl does not give you the same amount of relief then you should contact your prescriber for more advice. They may want you to have additional treatment.

You need to use Bricanyl as prescribed in order to get the best results from using it. The pharmacy label will tell you how much you should take.

Other information about Bricanyl:

- in certain situations your prescriber may advise you to have a higher dose of your medicine than normal

Bricanyl is usually given to you by a healthcare professional. The person responsible for giving you your medicine will make sure that you get the right dose.

If you feel that the medicine is making you unwell or you do not think it is working, then talk to your prescriber or someone involved in your medical care.

When to take your medicine

The person with responsibility for giving you your medicine will make sure that you have your medicine at the prescribed times.

How to take your medicine

This medicine will be given to you as an injection. If you have any concerns about this medicine or how this will be given to you, talk to someone who is involved in your medical care.

Taking too much of your medicine

Having extra doses of some medicines can be harmful. In some cases even one extra dose can cause you problems.

In the case of Bricanyl, the person who is responsible for giving you your medicine will make sure that you are given the correct dose.

Stopping your medicine

The person in charge of your care will make the decision about whether you should stop this medicine. If you experience any problems while having this medicine, talk to someone who is involved in your medical care.

Looking after your medicine

As Bricanyl will be given to you as an injection, it will usually be stored by the medical team.

Whether this medicine is suitable for you

Bricanyl is not suitable for everyone and some people should never use it. Other people should only use it with special care. It is important that the person prescribing this medicine knows your full medical history.

Your prescriber may only prescribe this medicine with special care or may not prescribe it at all if you:

- are allergic or sensitive to or have had a reaction to any of the ingredients in the medicine
- have thyrotoxicosis
- have cardiomyopathy
- have diabetes
- have a low level of oxygen in the blood
- have heart disease

Furthermore the prescriber may only prescribe this medicine with special care or may not prescribe it at all for a child under two years of age.

As part of the process of assessing suitability to take this medicine a prescriber may also arrange tests:

- to check that this medicine is having the desired effect
- to determine whether or not the medicine is suitable and whether it must be prescribed with extra care
- to check that this medicine is not having any undesired effects

Over time it is possible that Bricanyl can become unsuitable for some people, or they may become unsuitable for it. If at any time it appears that Bricanyl has become unsuitable, it is important that the prescriber is contacted immediately.

Side-effects

A medicine is only made available to the public if the clinical trials have shown that the benefits of taking the medicine outweigh the risks.

Once a medicine has been licensed, information on the medicine's effects, both intended and unintended, is continuously recorded and updated.

Some side-effects may be serious while others may only be a mild inconvenience.

Everyone's reaction to a medicine is different. It is difficult to predict which side-effects you will have from taking a particular medicine, or whether you will have any side-effects at all. The important thing is to tell your prescriber or pharmacist if you are having problems with your medicine.

Very common: More than 1 in 10 people who have Bricanyl

- headaches
- tremors

Common: More than 1 in 100 people who have Bricanyl

- faster heart rate
- metabolic problems
- muscle spasm
- palpitations

The frequency of these side-effects is unknown

- behavioural changes such as agitation and restlessness
- breathing difficulties - seek medical advice if you develop breathing difficulties
- dose tolerance - seek immediate medical advice if this occur
- feelings of tension
- heart or circulation problems - seek medical advice if you develop chest pain or other symptoms of worsening heart of problems
- hypersensitivity reactions including angioedema, urticaria, bronchospasm, eruption of rash, lowered blood pressure and collapse
- increased blood sugar levels in diabetics
- irritation of the mouth and throat
- nausea
- paradoxical bronchospasm with an increase in wheezing - if this happens to you, stop having Bricanyl, use a different fast acting inhaled bronchodilator to relieve your symptoms and contact your prescriber immediately
- sleeping problems
- vasodilatation of the extremities
- worsening of asthma - seek immediate medical advice if this happens

If you feel unwell or if you have concerns about a side-effect, you will need to seek advice. If you feel very ill, get medical help straight away. Contact your prescriber, pharmacist, nurse or call NHS Direct on 0845 46 47.

Taking other medicines

If you are taking more than one medicine they may interact with each other. At times your prescriber may decide to use medicines that interact, in other cases this may not be appropriate.

The decision to use medicines that interact depends on your specific circumstances. Your prescriber may decide to use medicines that interact, if it is believed that the benefits of taking the medicines together outweigh the risks. In such cases, it may be necessary to alter your dose or monitor you more closely.

Tell your prescriber the names of all the medicines that you are taking so that they can consider all possible interactions. This includes all the medicines which have been prescribed by your GP, hospital doctor, dentist, nurse, health visitor, midwife or pharmacist. You must also tell your prescriber about medicines which you have bought over the counter without prescriptions.

The following medicines may interact with Bricanyl:

- propranolol

The following types of medicine may interact with Bricanyl:

- sympathomimetics
- xanthine derivatives
- corticosteroids
- diuretics
- beta-blockers including eye drops

If you are taking Bricanyl and one of the above medicines or types of medicines, make sure your prescriber knows about it.

Complementary preparations and vitamins

Medicines can interact with complementary preparations and vitamins. In general, there is not much information available about interactions between medicines and complementary preparations or vitamins.

If you are planning to take or are already taking any complementary preparations and vitamins you should ask your prescriber whether there are any known interactions with Bricanyl.

Your prescriber can advise whether it is appropriate for you to take combinations that are known to interact. They can also discuss with you the

possible effect that the complementary preparations and vitamins may have on your condition.

If you experience any unusual effects while taking this medicine in combination with complementary preparations and vitamins, you should tell your prescriber.

Driving and operating machinery

When taking any medicine you should be aware that it might interfere with your ability to drive or operate machinery safely.

In the case of Bricanyl:

- this medicine will not affect your ability to drive or operate machinery

Like all medicines Bricanyl can cause side effects. You should see how this medicine affects you and then judge if you are safe to drive or operate machinery. If you are in any doubt, talk to your prescriber.

Diet

Medicines can interact with certain foods. In some cases, this may be harmful and your prescriber may advise you to avoid certain foods.

In the case of Bricanyl:

- there are no specific foods that you must exclude from your diet when having Bricanyl

Alcohol

Alcohol can interact with certain medicines.

In the case of Bricanyl:

- there are no known interactions between alcohol and Bricanyl

Family planning and pregnancy

Most medicines, in some way, can affect the development of a baby in the womb. The effect on the baby differs between medicines and also depends on the stage of pregnancy that you have reached when you take the medicine.

In the case of Bricanyl:

- you should only have this medicine during pregnancy if your doctor thinks that you need it

You need to discuss your specific circumstances with your doctor to weigh up the overall risks and benefits of taking this medicine. You and your doctor can make a decision about whether you are going to take this medicine during pregnancy.

If the decision is that you should not have Bricanyl, then you should discuss whether there is an

alternative medicine that you could take during pregnancy.

Breast-feeding

Certain medicines can pass into breast milk and may reach your baby through breast-feeding.

In the case of Bricanyl:

- this medicine passes into breast milk. Taking Bricanyl and breast-feeding is unlikely to affect your baby

Before you have your baby you should discuss breast-feeding with your doctor or midwife. They will help you decide what is best for you and your baby based on the benefits and risks associated with this medicine. You should only breast-feed your baby while taking this medicine on the advice of your doctor or midwife.

Ingredients of your medicine

Medicines contain active ingredients. They may also contain other, additional ingredients that help ensure the stability, safety and effectiveness of the medicine. Some may be used to prolong the life of the medicine.

Bricanyl contains:

- sodium chloride
- hydrochloric acid
- water for injections
- terbutaline

If you are not able to take any of the ingredients in your medicine, talk to your prescriber or pharmacist to see if they can suggest an alternative medicine. If you have reacted badly to Bricanyl before, do not take Bricanyl. Talk to your prescriber, pharmacist or nurse as soon as possible.