

Atrovent® Nebuliser Solution 0.5mg/2ml in Unit-Dose Vials



Composition

1 unit dose vial (2 mL) solution for inhalation contains 522 mcg (8*r*)-3-hydroxy-8-isopropyl-1*H*,5*H*-tropanium bromide (±)-tropate monohydrate (= Ipratropium bromide) corresponding to 500 mcg ipratropium bromide anhydrous
Excipients
sodium chloride, hydrochloric acid, purified water

Pharmacological properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Anticholinergics
ATC Code: R03BB01

ATROVENT (ipratropium bromide) is a quaternary ammonium compound with anticholinergic (parasympatholytic) properties. In nonclinical studies, it appears to inhibit vagally mediated reflexes by antagonising the action of acetylcholine, the transmitter agent released from the vagus nerve. Anticholinergics prevent the increase in intracellular concentration of Ca⁺⁺ which is caused by interaction of acetylcholine with the muscarinic receptor on bronchial smooth muscle. Ca⁺⁺ release is mediated by the second messenger system consisting of IP₃ (inositol triphosphate) and DAG (diacylglycerol).

The bronchodilation following inhalation of ATROVENT (ipratropium bromide) is primarily local and site specific to the lung and not systemic in nature. Preclinical and clinical evidence suggest no deleterious effect of ATROVENT (ipratropium bromide) on airway mucous secretion, mucociliary clearance or gas exchange.

Clinical trials

In controlled 85 - 90 day studies in patients with bronchospasm associated with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (chronic bronchitis and emphysema) significant improvements in pulmonary function occurred within 15 minutes, reached a peak in 1-2 hours, and persisted up to 4 - 6 hours.

The bronchodilator effect of ATROVENT in the treatment of acute bronchospasm associated with asthma has been shown in studies in adults. In most of these studies ATROVENT was administered in combination with an inhaled beta-agonist.

Pharmacokinetics

Absorption

The therapeutic effect of ATROVENT is produced by a local action in the airways. Time courses of bronchodilation and systemic pharmacokinetics do not run in parallel.

Following inhalation 10 to 30% of a dose is generally deposited in the lungs, depending on the formulation and inhalation technique. The major part of the dose is swallowed and passes the gastro-intestinal tract.

The portion of the dose deposited in the lungs reaches the circulation rapidly (within minutes).

Cumulative renal excretion (0-24 hrs) of the parent compound is approximated to 46% of an intravenously administered dose, below 1% of an oral dose and approximately 3 to 13% of an inhaled dose. Based on these data the total systemic bioavailability of oral and inhaled doses of ipratropium bromide is estimated at 2% and 7 to 28% respectively.

Taking this into account, swallowed dose portions of ipratropium bromide do not relevantly contribute to systemic exposure.

Distribution

Kinetic parameters describing the disposition of ipratropium were calculated from plasma concentrations after i.v. administration. A rapid biphasic decline in plasma concentrations is observed. The apparent

volume of distribution at steady-state (V_{dss}) is approximately 176 L (≈ 2.4 L/kg). The drug is minimally (less than 20%) bound to plasma proteins. Nonclinical data indicate that quaternary amine ipratropium does not cross the placental barrier.

Biotransformation

After intravenous administration approximately 60% of a dose is metabolised, the major portion probably in the liver by oxidation. The known metabolites, which are formed by hydrolysis, dehydration or elimination of the hydroxy-methyl group in the tropic acid moiety, show very little or no affinity for the muscarinic receptor and have to be regarded as ineffective.

Elimination

The half-life of the terminal elimination phase is approximately 1.6 hours. Ipratropium has a total clearance of 2.3 L/min and a renal clearance of 0.9 L/min.

In an excretion balance study cumulative renal excretion (6 days) of drug-related radioactivity (including parent compound and all metabolites) accounted for 72.1% after intravenous administration, 9.3% after oral administration and 3.2% after inhalation. Total radioactivity excreted via the faeces was 6.3% following intravenous application, 88.5% following oral dosing and 69.4% after inhalation. Regarding the excretion of drug-related radioactivity after intravenous administration, the main excretion occurs via the kidneys. The half-life for elimination of drug-related radioactivity (parent compound and metabolites) is 3.6 hours.

Indications

Chronic obstructive bronchitis and asthma

Dosage and Administration

The product should be used by physician prescription. The dosage should be adapted to the individual requirements and the patients should be kept under medical supervision during treatment. It is advisable not to exceed the recommended daily dose during either acute or maintenance treatment.

If therapy does not produce a significant improvement or if the patient's condition gets worse, medical advice must be sought in order to determine a new plan of treatment. The patient should be instructed that in the case of acute or rapidly worsening dyspnoea a physician should be consulted immediately.

The following dosages are recommended:

- Maintenance treatment:**
Adults (including elderly) and adolescents > 12 years of age:
1 unit dose vial (UDV) 3 to 4 times daily.
- Acute attacks:**
Adults (including elderly) and adolescents > 12 years of age:
1 unit dose vial (UDV); repeated doses can be administered until the patient is stable.
The time interval between the doses may be determined by the physician. ATROVENT can be administered combined with an inhaled beta-agonist. Daily doses exceeding 2 mg ipratropium bromide anhydrous in adults and adolescents >12 years of age should be given under medical supervision.

Instructions for use

Please read the instructions for use carefully, to ensure correct administration. The unit dose vials are intended only for inhalation with suitable nebulising devices and should not be taken orally or administered parenterally.

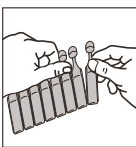
The unit dose vials of 1 mL are to be diluted with physiological saline up to a final volume of 2 - 4 mL or may be combined with BEROTEC solution for inhalation.

ATROVENT solution for inhalation can be administered using a range of commercially available nebulising devices. Where wall oxygen is available the solution is best administered at a flow rate of 6 - 8 litres per minute.

ATROVENT solution for inhalation is suitable for concurrent inhalation with the secretomucolytics MUCOSOLVAN solution for inhalation and BISOLVON solution for inhalation or BEROTEC solution for inhalation.

ATROVENT solution for inhalation in unit dose vials and disodium cromoglycate solution for inhalation should not be administered simultaneously in the same nebuliser.

- Prepare the nebuliser for filling, according to the instructions provided by the manufacturer or doctor.
- Tear one unit dose vial from the strip.
- Open the unit dose vial by firmly twisting the top.
- Squeeze the content of the unit dose vial into the nebuliser reservoir.
- Dilute with saline up to a final volume of 2 - 4 mL.
- Assemble the nebuliser and use as directed.
- After use throw away any solution left in the reservoir and clean the nebuliser, following the manufacturer's instructions.



Since the unit dose vials contain no preservative, it is important that the contents are used soon after opening and that a fresh vial is used for each administration to avoid microbial contamination. Partly used, opened or damaged unit dose vials should be discarded.

Contraindications

ATROVENT is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to atropine or its derivatives (such as the active substance ipratropium bromide) or to any other component of the product.

Special warnings and precautions

Hypersensitivity

Immediate hypersensitivity reactions may occur after administration of ATROVENT, as demonstrated by rare cases of rash, urticaria, angio-oedema, oropharyngeal oedema, bronchospasm, and anaphylaxis.

Paradoxical bronchospasm

As with other inhaled medicines ATROVENT may result in paradoxical bronchospasm that may be life-threatening. If paradoxical bronchospasm occurs ATROVENT should be discontinued immediately and substituted with an alternative therapy.

Ocular complications

ATROVENT should be used with caution in patients predisposed to narrow-angle glaucoma.

There have been isolated reports of ocular complications (i.e. mydriasis, increased intraocular pressure, narrow-angle glaucoma, eye pain) when aerosolised ipratropium bromide either alone or in combination with an adrenergic beta₂-agonist, has come into contact with the eyes.

Eye pain or discomfort, blurred vision, visual halos or coloured images in association with red eyes from conjunctival congestion and corneal oedema may

be signs of acute narrow-angle glaucoma. Should any combination of these symptoms develop, treatment with miotic drops should be initiated and specialist advice should be sought immediately.

Patients must be instructed in the correct administration of ATROVENT nebuliser solution. Care must be taken not to allow the solution or mist into the eyes. It is recommended that the nebulised solution is administered via a mouth piece. If this is not available and a nebuliser mask is used, it must fit properly. Patients who may be predisposed to glaucoma should be warned specifically to protect their eyes.

Renal and urinary effects

ATROVENT should be used with caution in patients with pre-existing urinary outflow tract obstruction (e.g. prostatic hyperplasia or bladder-neck obstruction).

Gastro-intestinal motility disturbances

Patients with cystic fibrosis may be more prone to gastro-intestinal motility disturbances.

Interactions

The chronic co-administration of ATROVENT inhalation with other anticholinergic drugs has not been studied. Therefore, the chronic co-administration of ATROVENT[®] with other anticholinergic drugs is not recommended.

Beta-adrenergics and xanthine preparations may intensify the bronchodilator effect.

The risk of acute glaucoma in patients with a history of narrow-angle glaucoma (see section Special warnings and precautions) may be increased when nebulised ipratropium bromide and beta-mimetics are administered simultaneously.

Fertility, Pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

The safety of ATROVENT during human pregnancy has not been established. The benefits of using ATROVENT during a confirmed or suspected pregnancy must be weighed against possible hazards to the unborn child. Nonclinical studies have shown no embryotoxic or teratogenic effects following inhalation or intranasal application at doses considerably higher than those recommended in man.

Lactation

It is not known whether ipratropium bromide is excreted into breast milk, but it is unlikely that ipratropium bromide would reach the infant to an important extent, especially when administered by inhalation. However, caution should be exercised when ATROVENT is administered to nursing mothers.

Fertility

Clinical data on fertility are not available for ipratropium bromide. Nonclinical studies performed with ipratropium bromide showed no adverse effect on fertility (see section Toxicology).

Effects on ability to drive and use machines

No studies on the effects on the ability to drive and use machines have been performed. However, patients should be advised that they may experience undesirable effects such as dizziness, accommodation disorder, mydriasis and blurred vision during treatment with ATROVENT. Therefore, caution should be recommended when driving a car or operating machinery.

Side effects

Many of the listed undesirable effects can be assigned to the anticholinergic properties of ATROVENT. As with all inhalation therapy ATROVENT may show symptoms of local irritation. Adverse drug reactions were identified from data obtained in clinical trials and pharmacovigilance during post approval use of the drug.

The most frequent side effects reported in clinical trials were headache, throat irritation, cough, dry mouth, gastro-intestinal motility disorders (including constipation, diarrhoea and vomiting), nausea, and dizziness.

Immune system disorders

- hypersensitivity

- anaphylactic reaction

Nervous system disorders

- headache
- dizziness

Eye disorders

- vision blurred
- mydriasis
- intraocular pressure increased

- glaucoma

- eye pain

- halo vision

- conjunctival hyperaemia

- corneal oedema

- accommodation disorder

Cardiac disorders

- palpitations

- supraventricular tachycardia

- atrial fibrillation

- heart rate increased

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders

- throat irritation

- cough

- bronchospasm

- bronchospasm paradoxical

- laryngospasm

- pharyngeal oedema

- dry throat

Gastrointestinal disorders

- dry mouth

- nausea

- gastrointestinal motility disorder

- diarrhoea

- constipation

- vomiting

- stomatitis

- oedema mouth

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

- rash

- pruritus

- angioedema

- urticaria

Renal and urinary disorders

- urinary retention

Overdose

No symptoms specific to overdose have been encountered. In view of the wide therapeutic range and topical administration of ATROVENT, no serious anticholinergic symptoms are to be expected. Minor systemic manifestations of anticholinergic action, including dry mouth, visual accommodation disorder and increase of heart rate may occur.

Toxicology

Local and systemic tolerability of ipratropium bromide have comprehensively been investigated in several animal species using various administration routes. Single-dose toxicity

The acute inhalation, oral and intravenous has been assessed in several rodent and non-rodent species.

When administered by inhalation, the minimum lethal dose in male Guinea pigs was 199 mg/kg. In rats, no mortality was observed up to the highest technically feasible dosages (i.e. 0.05 mg/kg after 4 h of administration or 160 puffs of ipratropium bromide, 0.02 mg/puff).

The oral LD₅₀ values for the mouse, rat and rabbit were 1585, 1925 and 1920 mg/kg, respectively. The intravenous LD₅₀ for the mouse, rat and dog was, respectively, 13.6, 15.8 and about 18.2 mg/kg. Clinical signs included mydriasis, dry oral mucosa, dyspnoea, tremor, spasms and/or tachycardia.

Repeat-dose toxicity

Repeat-dose toxicity studies have been performed in rats, rabbits, dogs and Rhesus monkeys.

In inhalation studies up to 6 months in rats, dogs and Rhesus monkeys, the No-Observed Adverse Effect Level (NOAEL) was 0.38 mg/kg/day, 0.18 mg/kg/day and 0.8 mg/kg/day, respectively. Dry oral mucosa and tachycardia were noted in the dogs.

No substance-related histopathological lesions were observed in the bronchopulmonary system or in any other organs. In the rat, the NOAEL after 18 months of oral administration was 0.5 mg/kg/day.

Repeated-dose inhalation toxicity studies in rats up to 6 months, and in dogs for up to 3 months with other formulations (intranasal formulation, alternative propellant HFA 134a and lactose powder formulation) revealed no additional information on the general toxicity profile of ipratropium bromide.

Intranasal administration for up to 6 months revealed a No Effect Level (NOEL) > 0.20 mg/kg/day in dogs and confirmed earlier studies with intranasal administration for up to 13 weeks.

Repeat-dose toxicity studies of ipratropium bromide have shown the toxicological profiles of the HFA formulation and the conventional CFC formulation to be similar.

Local tolerance

An aqueous solution of ipratropium bromide, (0.05 mg/kg), was locally well tolerated when administered to rats by inhalation (single administration over 4 h). In the repeated dose toxicity studies, ipratropium bromide, was locally well tolerated.

Immunogenicity

Neither active anaphylaxis nor passive cutaneous anaphylactic reactions were demonstrated in Guinea pigs.

Genotoxicity and carcinogenicity

There was no evidence of genotoxicity *in vitro* (Ames test) and *in vivo* (micronucleus test, dominant lethal test in mice, cytogenetic assay on bone marrow cells of Chinese hamsters).

No tumorigenic or carcinogenic effects were demonstrated in long term studies in mice and rats.

Reproductive and developmental toxicity

Studies to investigate the possible influence of ipratropium bromide, on fertility, embryo-fetotoxicity, and peri-/postnatal development have been performed on mice, rats and rabbits.

High oral dose levels, i.e. 1000 mg/kg/day in the rat and 125 mg/kg/day in the rabbit were maternotoxic for both species and embryo-/fetotoxic in the rat, where the fetal weight was reduced. Treatment-related malformations were not observed.

The highest, technically feasible doses for inhalation of the metered aerosol, 1.5 mg/kg/day in rats and 1.8 mg/kg/day in rabbits, showed no adverse effects on reproduction.

Availability

Pack of 100 unit-dose vials below in paper boxes.

Protect from direct sunlight!

Store below 30°C and in a safe place out of the reach of children!

Mfd. by

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For

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