VENTOLIN ROTACAPS®
Salbutamol sulphate

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet?

Please read this leaflet carefully before you use Ventolin Rotacaps.

This leaflet answers some common questions about Ventolin Rotacaps. It does not contain all of the available information.

It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the expected benefits of you taking Ventolin Rotacaps against the risks this medicine could have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with the medicine.

You may need to read it again.

What are Ventolin Rotacaps used for?

Ventolin Rotacaps are capsules which contain a medicine called salbutamol sulphate. This medicine belongs to a group of medicines called beta-2 adrenoceptor agonists. The medicine is a very fine powder mixed with lactose (which contains milk protein). Each capsule contains the equivalent of 200 micrograms of salbutamol.

Ventolin Rotacaps are used in a plastic device called a Ventolin Rotahaler®. When used in your Ventolin Rotahaler, your Ventolin Rotacaps provide a measured amount of medicine for you to breathe into your lungs. Your Ventolin Rotacaps help you to breathe more easily. When you are having difficulty breathing, or your chest is tight, or when you are wheezing, Ventolin Rotacaps open up the breathing tubes in your lungs to help with breathing. Because the medicine in your Ventolin Rotacaps gives fast relief from your chest symptoms, it is often called a ‘reliever’.

Some people start wheezing or their chest starts to feel tight when they exercise. This is called exercise-induced asthma. If you have exercise-induced asthma, your doctor may tell you to inhale one or two Ventolin Rotacaps before you exercise. This can help prevent the symptoms of exercise-induced asthma.

This medicine is only one part of a plan to help you manage your asthma or other chest condition. You should discuss this plan with your doctor. Ask your doctor to check your treatment regularly.

The medicine in Ventolin Rotacaps is not addictive.

Before you take Ventolin Rotacaps

Do not take if:

- you have ever had an allergic reaction to salbutamol sulphate, lactose or milk protein.

- the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack has passed.

- the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering

Tell your doctor if:

You must tell your doctor if:

- you are allergic to foods, dyes, preservatives or any other medicines.

- you have had to stop taking this or any other asthma medicine.

- you are having treatment for a thyroid condition.

- you are having treatment for high blood pressure.

- you have a heart problem.

- you have a liver problem.

- you have a kidney problem.

- you have sugar diabetes.

- you are taking any other medicines, including medicines you buy without a prescription.

- you are breastfeeding, pregnant or trying to become pregnant.

How do I take Ventolin Rotacaps?

How much to take

The pharmacist’s label will usually tell you how many capsules to use and how often to use your Ventolin Rotacaps with the Rotahaler. If you are not sure, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
If your breathing condition suddenly gets worse, your doctor may tell you to use extra capsules. If you use extra capsules and do not get relief, tell your doctor immediately.

If you forget to take a dose, do not worry. Just take the next dose at the normal time or earlier if you become wheezy or feel tight in the chest.

**How to take it**

Do not swallow your Ventolin Rotacaps. The medicine in your Ventolin Rotacaps is taken by inhalation only, using your Ventolin Rotahaler. The Rotahaler opens the capsule and releases the powder. Make sure that you have a Ventolin Rotahaler and can use it properly.

More instructions on how to use your Ventolin Rotacaps with your Ventolin Rotahaler are provided inside your pack of Ventolin Rotacaps. Follow the instructions carefully.

You should visit your doctor or pharmacist regularly to check that you are using your Ventolin Rotahaler in the right way. If you are not breathing the medicine in correctly, the medicine may not be helping you as much as it could.

**How long to take it for**

Do not stop taking Ventolin Rotacaps, or change the dose without first checking with your doctor.

**What do I do if I take too much? (Overdose)**

Immediately telephone your doctor or Poisons Information Centre (telephone 131126) for advice, if you think you or anyone else may have taken too much of your medicine, even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention.

Keep telephone numbers for these places handy.

If you are not sure what to do, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

**While you are taking Ventolin Rotacaps**

**Things you must do**

Tell your doctor if, for any reason, you have not taken your medicine exactly as directed. Otherwise, your doctor may think that it was not working as it should and change your treatment unnecessarily.

If your breathing suddenly becomes more difficult just after you have used your Ventolin Rotacaps, tell your doctor immediately.

If your Ventolin Rotacaps do not help your breathing as much as normal, tell your doctor as soon as possible. If the effect of your Ventolin Rotacaps does not last as long as usual or lasts less than 3 hours, tell your doctor as soon as possible. These may be signs that your breathing condition is getting worse.

Your doctor may decide to add another medicine to your treatment if your Ventolin Rotacaps are not having the same effect as before.

**Things you must not do**

Do not give this medicine to anyone else, even if their symptoms seem similar to yours.

Do not use Ventolin Rotacaps to treat any other complaints unless your doctor says to.

**What are the side effects?**

Check with your doctor as soon as possible if you think you are experiencing any side effects or allergic reactions due to taking Ventolin Rotacaps, even if the problem is not listed below.

Like other medicines, Ventolin Rotacaps can cause some side effects. If they occur, they are most likely to be minor and temporary. However, some may be serious and need medical attention.

The most commonly reported side-effects are:

- headache
- nausea
- shaky or tense feeling
- heart beating faster than usual
- 'warm' feeling
- mouth or throat irritation

Some rare side-effects are:

- muscle cramps
- restlessness

Stop using your Ventolin Rotacaps and tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following:

- skin rash, angioedema (sudden swelling under the skin) or faint or dizzy feeling. These could be symptoms of an allergic reaction.

This is not a complete list of all possible side effects. Others may occur in some people and there may be some side effects not yet known.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

In some people, the medicine in Ventolin Rotacaps may affect their
blood potassium levels. Your
doctor may do tests to check this.

How do I store Ventolin Rotacaps?

Keep this medicine where
children cannot reach it, such
as in a locked cupboard.

Keep your Ventolin Rotacaps
in a cool, dry place away from
heat (store below 30°C). Do
not leave in a car, on window
sill or in bathroom.

Do not load a capsule into
your Rotahaler until you are
ready to take a dose.

You will find an expiry (or use
by) date printed on the
manufacturer’s label on the
cardboard box. Do not use
your Ventolin Rotacaps after
this date.

Return any unused or expired
medicine to your pharmacist.

Product description

What Ventolin Rotacaps
look like

The capsule shell is made of
gelatin. One half of the capsule
shell is transparent and the other
half is pale blue in colour. Printed
on the capsule shell is “VENTOLIN
200” in red.

Your Ventolin Rotacaps are
packed in foil strips of 10
capsules. There are 100 Rotacaps
in a box.

Ingredients

Ventolin Rotacaps contains the
active ingredient salbutamol
sulphate.
Ventolin Rotacaps also contain
lactose (which contains milk
protein) as a non-active
ingredient.

Supplier

Your Ventolin Rotacaps are
supplied by:

Allen & Hanbury’s
A Division of GlaxoSmithKline
Australia Pty Ltd
1061 Mountain Highway
Boronia
Victoria, 3155
Australia.

Where to go for further
information

Pharmaceutical companies are not
in a position to give people an
individual diagnosis or medical
advice. Your doctor or pharmacist
is the best person to give you
advice on the treatment of your
condition. You may also be able
to find general information about
your disease and its treatment
from patient information groups
and from books, for example in
public libraries.

This leaflet was prepared on 29
March 2005.
The information provided applies
only to: Ventolin Rotacaps®

Ventolin®, Rotacaps® and
Rotahaler® are registered
trademarks of the
GlaxoSmithKline Group of
Companies.

Ventolin Rotacaps: AUST R
12530
This leaflet is subject to copyright
(PCMI: Ventolin Rotacaps Issue No
3)