

FORMOTEROL

Class: Beta₂ Agonist; Beta₂-Adrenergic Agonist, Long-Acting

Indications:

Treatment of asthma (only as concomitant therapy with an inhaled corticosteroid), maintenance treatment of bronchoconstriction in patients with COPD, prevention of exercise-induced bronchospasm when administered on an as-needed basis (monotherapy may be indicated in patients without persistent asthma)

Available dosage form in the hospital:

-FORMOTEROL FUMARATE 4.5 MCG TURBOHALER

-FORMOTEROL FUMARATE 9 MCG TURBOHALER

-FORMOTEROL 12MCG /DOSE INHALER

-FORMOTEROL 12MCG CAP

Dosage:

- **Asthma treatment:** Inhalation: **Note:** For asthma control, long-acting beta₂-agonists (LABAs) should be used in combination with inhaled corticosteroids and not as monotherapy.

-*U.S. labeling:* Foradil® Aerolizer®: 12 mcg every 12 hours (maximum: 24 mcg daily)

-*Canadian labeling:*

-Foradil®: 12 mcg every 12 hours; in severe cases, 24 mcg every 12 hours may be given (maximum: 48 mcg daily)

-Oxeze® Turbuhaler®: 6 mcg or 12 mcg every 12 hours (maximum: 48 mcg daily)

- **Prevention of exercise-induced bronchospasm:** Inhalation: **Note:** If already using for asthma maintenance, then should not use additional doses for exercise-induced bronchospasm. Because LABAs may disguise poorly controlled persistent asthma, frequent or chronic use of LABAs for exercise-induced bronchospasm is discouraged by the NIH Asthma Guidelines (NIH, 2007).

-*U.S. labeling:* Foradil® Aerolizer®: 12 mcg at least 15 minutes before exercise on an occasional “as needed” basis; additional doses should not be used for another 12 hours

-*Canadian labeling:* Oxeze® Turbuhaler®: 6 mcg or 12 mcg at least 15 minutes before exercise on an occasional “as needed” basis (maximum: 48 mcg/24-hour period)

- **COPD maintenance treatment:** Inhalation:

-*U.S. labeling:*

-Foradil® Aerolizer®: 12 mcg every 12 hours (maximum: 24 mcg daily)

-Perforomist®: 20 mcg twice daily (maximum dose: 40 mcg daily)

-*Canadian labeling:* Foradil®: 12 mcg or 24 mcg twice daily (maximum dose: 48 mcg daily)

Geriatric

Refer to adult dosing.

Renal impairment:

No dosage adjustment provided in manufacturer's labeling (has not been studied).

Hepatic impairment:

No dosage adjustment provided in manufacturer's labeling (has not been studied).

Common side effect:

Cardiovascular: Chest pain, palpitation

Central nervous system: Anxiety, dizziness, fever, insomnia, dysphonia, headache

Dermatologic: Pruritus, rash.

Gastrointestinal: Diarrhea, nausea, xerostomia , vomiting, abdominal pain, dyspepsia, gastroenteritis.

Neuromuscular & skeletal: Muscle cramps, tremor.

Respiratory: Infection, asthma exacerbation, bronchitis, pharyngitis, sinusitis, dyspnea, tonsillitis.

Pregnancy Risk Factor: C