

TERBUTALINE SULFATE
(ter-BYOU-tah-leen)
Brethine

PHARMACOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION:

- adrenergic (beta₂ agonist)
- it is a synthetic sympathomimetic that causes bronchodilation with less cardiac effect than epinephrine

THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATION:

- bronchodilator

MECHANISM OF ACTION:

- selective for beta₂ (pulmonary) receptors
- effect is to relax bronchial smooth muscle
- relaxes uterine smooth muscle and inhibits contractions

INDICATIONS:

- moderate to severe asthma
- bronchospasm associated with COPD
- may also be used in premature labor to inhibit contractions (second-line drug to magnesium sulfate in premature labor)

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- hypersensitivity
- use cautiously in patients with cardiovascular disorders, hyperthyroidism, diabetes, or seizure disorders

SIDE EFFECTS:

- CNS: nervousness, tremor, drowsiness, dizziness, headache, weakness
- CV: palpitations, tachycardia, arrhythmias
- RESP: paradoxical bronchospasm with prolonged use, dyspnea

INTERACTIONS:

- other sympathomimetics
- beta blockers may antagonize bronchodilating effect
- use of MAO inhibitors or tricyclic antidepressants may potentiate effects on vascular system

DOSAGE:

- 0.25 mg SC
- may be repeated as needed in 15-30 minutes
- premature labor:
 - initial dose of 10 mcg/min IV infusion
 - maximum dose 80 mcg/min