| Drugs You Were<br>Given  | Uses  | How to take this medication  | Common Side<br>Effects   | Precautions  |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| <ul> <li>□ Beta(β) agonist<br/>SHORT-acting         <ul> <li>Salbutamol<br/>LONG-acting</li> <li>Formoterol</li> <li>Salmeterol</li> </ul> </li> <li>Antimuscarinic</li> </ul> | Widens the airway, hence<br>also known as<br>bronchodilators.<br>Used in asthma and<br>obstructive airway diseases,<br>to relieve breathlessness<br>Salbutamol is also used to<br>relieve shortness of breath<br>caused by exercise | Short acting $\beta$ agonist used for<br>relief of breathlessness during<br>acute asthma attacks, also<br>known as 'relievers'<br>Long acting $\beta$ agonist for<br>regular use, NOT for relief of<br>acute attacks except<br>Formoterol (fast onset)<br>Use regularly or as required for | Dry or irritated mouth/throat<br>Trembling of hands and<br>nervousness, headache, rapid<br>heartbeat<br>These side effects should<br>subside as your body adjusts<br>to the medication<br>Dry mouth/throa, runny nose,                     | Consult your doctor if the medicine does not<br>relieve your breathlessness or if you are using<br>your 'reliever' more often than usual<br>Carry your 'reliever' with you at all times and<br>ensure your supply is adequate<br>Allow a lapse of one minute between inhalations<br>of the same medication, and five minutes if using<br>different medications |
| <ul> <li>Ipratropium</li> <li>Tiotropium</li> </ul>  |   | symptom relief as directed by your doctor  | headache, rapid heartbeat  |  |
| <ul> <li>Steroids         <ul> <li>Beclometasone</li> <li>Budesonide</li> <li>Fluticasone</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   | Reduces airway<br>hypersensitivity and hence<br>prevents asthmatic attacks  | This medication must be used<br>regularly to prevent asthma<br>attacks. It does not work<br>immediately and should not be<br>used to relieve an attack<br>If you are using a<br>bronchodilator, use it 5 minutes<br>prior to your inhaled steroid  | Dry/irritated mouth, sore<br>throat, unpleasant taste,<br>hoarseness of voice, throat<br>irritation<br>To prevent oral yeast<br>infections, gargle and rinse<br>your mouth with water after<br>EACH use. Do not swallow<br>the rinse water | Do not stop this medicine without your doctor's advice   |
| ☐ Theophylline   | Widens the airway<br>Used for relieving symptoms<br>and treatment of asthma and<br>obstructive airway diseases  | Take after food<br>Swallow whole. Do not crush or<br>chew the tablets  | Fast heartbeat, nausea,<br>vomiting, stomach upset,<br>restlessness, headache,<br>difficulty sleeping  | Seek medical attention if persistent vomiting,<br>irregular or rapid heartbeat, confusion, severe<br>chest/stomach pain occurs<br>Limit caffeine intake as it can increase side<br>effects of this medication<br>Smoking affects this medication. Be sure to tell<br>your doctor if you smoke and if you stop<br>smoking as your dose may need to be adjusted  |



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> The information provided in this leaflet is intended to supplement, not as a substitute for, the expertise and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or any other healthcare professional. Please consult your healthcare provider before using this agent.