

Parker & Waichman, LLP Attorneys at Law

Advair Information Guide



Manufacturer:
GlaxoSmithKline

Generic Name:
Fluticasone propionate

Date Approved:
August 25, 2000

Status:
Black Box Warning 7/12/05

Approved Uses:
Asthma

Serious Side Effects:
Asthma-related death
Bronchitis
Sore throat
Sinus pain

Related Topics
Foradil
Serevent
Asthma
Defective Drugs
Diseases

The Case Against Advair:

The Advair Diskus inhaler contains a combination of fluticasone and salmeterol and is used to treat asthma. Fluticasone and salmeterol shrink the swelling in the airways and relax and open air passages in the lungs. Advair was approved in 2000, by the FDA and is made by GlaxoSmithKline.

The FDA, on November 15, 2005 issued a public health advisory about potentially fatal side effects from two GlaxoSmithKline asthma drugs. The agency is asking the maker of the drugs, Advair Diskus and Serevent Diskus, to add warnings to their labels that these medications "may increase the chance of severe asthma episodes, and death when those episodes occur."

Advair is GlaxoSmithKline's biggest product, with \$4 billion in sales during the first nine months of 2005. Serevent's sales were \$450 million. Advair is a long-acting beta 2-adrenergic agonist, or LABA, which provides asthma relief by relaxing muscles around the airways to the lungs. Although they can reduce the number of asthma episodes, the FDA says they "may increase the chances of a severe asthma episode when they do occur."

In one study, the agency says, "an increased number of people taking a LABA in addition to their usual asthma care died from their asthma compared to people taking a placebo in addition to their usual asthma care, although the number of asthma deaths in the study was small."

In August 2003, the FDA announced the addition of new safety information and warnings to the labeling for drug products that contain salmeterol. The new labeling includes a boxed warning about a small, but significant, increased risk of life-threatening asthma episodes or asthma-related deaths observed in patients taking salmeterol in a recently completed large U.S. safety study.

Side effects of Advair may consist of the following: bronchitis, cough, vomiting, diarrhea, difficulty speaking, fungal infection of the mouth, headaches, stomach pain, hoarseness, muscle and bone pain, nausea, sore throat and sinus pain.

If you or a loved one has been injured by Advair, Parker & Waichman, LLP will evaluate your case for free. [Click here for a free case evaluation.](#)

Advair (Fluticasone propionate)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

Advair is a medicine prescribed for individuals suffering from asthma and COPD. Rather than being a single drug, Advair is actually a combination of two drugs. The first drug is fluticasone propionate (Flovent) and the second drug is salmeterol (Serevent); with this combination of drugs the medicine Advair is formed. Advair is available in 3 dosage forms. The smallest dosage is 100/50, the intermediate dosage is 250/50 and the highest dosage is 500/50. The first number in the dosage description is how many micrograms of fluticasone propionate and the second number how many micrograms of salmeterol is in that formulation of Advair. The container that holds and dispenses Advair is a purple disk-shaped container (a "Diskus") about 3.5 inches (8.9 cm) across and about 1 inch thick (2.5 cm). The diskus container holds small pellets of the drug combination, which are crushed on a dose-per-dose basis into a fine powder utilizing an internal mechanism activated by pressing a small lever on the side of the container. The powder is then inhaled directly into the lungs through a mouthpiece.

Advair is manufactured and distributed by the pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline.

Fluticasone proprionate is a glucocorticoid often prescribed as treatment for asthma and allergic rhinitis. It is marketed with the brand name **Flixotide®** by Allen & Hanburys and **Flovent®** and **Flonase®** by GlaxoSmithKline.

The precise mechanisms of glucocorticoid action in asthma are unknown. Inflammation is recognized as an important component in the pathogenesis of asthma. Glucocorticoids have been shown to inhibit multiple cell types (e.g., mast cells, eosinophils, basophils, lymphocytes, macrophages, and neutrophils) and mediator production or secretion (e.g., histamine, eicosanoids, leukotrienes, and cytokines) involved in the asthmatic response. These anti-inflammatory actions of glucocorticoids may contribute to their efficacy in asthma. Typically, however, the action on the cells affected requires several days. Therefore, inhaled steroids are not used for immediate relief of asthma, but instead as preventive and maintenance therapy.

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