

LEUKOTRIENE MODIFIERS

LONG-TERM CONTROL ASTHMA MEDICINE

When a person has asthma, the inside walls of the airways can become swollen and covered with a layer of mucus, partially blocking the flow of air into and out of the lungs. Leukotrienes are among the chemicals released by the body that contribute to this process. Leukotriene Modifiers are new medications that reduce and prevent the swelling inside the airways before it starts, stop the mucus from forming and lessen the muscle tightening around the airways.

Leukotriene Modifiers work to prevent an episode from starting. They are not used to treat symptoms. It may take several weeks for the medicine to take effect. You have to continue to take these medicines even when you're feeling well. Leukotriene Modifiers do not work for everyone.

Leukotriene Modifiers do not stop an asthma episode once it has started.

How are they prescribed?

Leukotriene Modifiers are long-term control medications. They are pills and are given either once or twice a day. They can be prescribed alone for people with mild asthma but are more often combined with other long-term control medications.

Side Effects:

Leukotriene Modifiers may cause headache, stomachache or flu-like symptoms for children.

SOME BRAND NAMES OF LEUKOTRIENE MODIFIERS

(Generic names in parentheses)

Singular

(Montelukast Sodium)

Approved for children 2 and older

Accolate

(Zafirlukast)

Approved for children 7 and older

Zyflo

(Zileuton)

Not approved for children

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ABOUT ASTHMA
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