

NASAL SPRAY INSTRUCTIONS

Following are directions for the use on a variety of nasal sprays. Each has specific indications and use them as directed. Please note how these medications affect you so that we can chart any adverse effects or allergic reactions.

The purpose of the following sprays is to open the nose and improve nasal breathing.

NASAL STEROIDS:

Fluticasone (brands are Flonase, Allerflo (Kirkland-Costco): Ages 4-11 years old: 1 spray each nostril once a day
Ages 12 years and older: 2 sprays each nostril once a day

Triamcinolone (brand is Nasacort): Ages 2-11 years old: 1 spray each nostril once a day
Ages 12 years and older: 2 sprays each nostril once a day

Mometasone (brand is Nasonex): Ages 2-11 years old: 1 spray each nostril once a day
Ages 12 years and older: 2 sprays each nostril once a day

NOTE (for any of the above sprays): Use the spray for at least two weeks consecutively; it will not work right away. May decrease to one spray a day afterwards if it is still helpful in keeping the nose open. If you are able to use one spray a day, you may then try using it every other day.

Other sprays:

Azelastine (Asteline): 1-2 sprays each nostril 1-2 times a day as needed for runny nose, nasal stuffiness, postnasal drainage.

Azelastine and nasal steroid spray (ie, Flonase or Nasacort): 1 spray of Azelastine in each nostril, followed by one spray of your nasal steroid into each nostril. Do this 2 times a day.

Ipratropium (Atrovent): 1-2 sprays affected nostril, 1-3 times a day as needed for runny nose, postnasal drainage.

NOTE: To best deliver the spray, use the opposite hand to spray the opposite side of the nose (i.e., right hand for the left nose, left hand for the right), pointing the nozzle laterally towards the outer side of the nose (i.e., aim it to the outer corner of the eye). You want to avoid spraying it onto the septum (the partition or wall in the middle of the nose).

Some of the side effects of the nasal sprays include nasal dryness, nose bleeds, sore throat, headaches. To prevent these, use the following:

Nasal saline (ie, different brands are Ocean, Ayr, Neil Med bottle, Neti pot): Saline solution is a natural product that is similar to what your nose normally produces. Use 1-2 sprays each nostril 3 or more times a day to rinse and moisturize the nasal passages. This can be purchased over the counter. (NOTE: if having a CT or MRI of the head or sinuses, do not use saline the day prior and the day of the procedure; fluid may trap in the sinuses giving a false positive finding).

Nasal gel (ie, Ocean, Ayr): apply pea-size amount twice a day to nose on both sides with clean finger or qtip. This can be purchased over the counter.