

## HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use ASMANEX TWISTHALER safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for ASMANEX TWISTHALER.

**ASMANEX® TWISTHALER® (mometasone furoate inhalation powder), for oral inhalation use**  
Initial U.S. Approval: 1987

### RECENT MAJOR CHANGES

Dosage and Administration (2) 02/2021  
Warnings and Precautions (5.1, 5.2) 02/2021

### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

ASMANEX TWISTHALER is a corticosteroid indicated for maintenance treatment of asthma as prophylactic therapy in patients 4 years of age and older. (1)

Limitations of Use: ASMANEX TWISTHALER is not indicated for the relief of acute bronchospasm (1, 5.2) or in children less than 4 years of age (1, 8.4).

### DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

- For oral inhalation only. (2)
- Instruct patients to inhale rapidly and deeply and, after administration, rinse mouth with water and spit out contents without swallowing. (2)

#### Recommended Dosages for ASMANEX TWISTHALER Treatment

Previous Therapy	Recommended Starting Dose	Highest Recommended Daily Dose
Patients ≥12 years who received bronchodilators alone	220 mcg once daily in the evening*	440 mcg <sup>†</sup>
Patients ≥12 years who received inhaled corticosteroids	220 mcg once daily in the evening*	440 mcg <sup>†</sup>
Patients ≥12 years who received oral corticosteroids <sup>‡</sup>	440 mcg twice daily	880 mcg
Children 4-11 years of age <sup>§</sup>	110 mcg once daily in the evening*	110 mcg*

\* , † , ‡ , § Please refer to section 2.1 for full dosage recommendations and details.

### DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

Inhalation powder:

- 220 mcg TWISTHALER: delivers 200 mcg mometasone furoate per actuation. (3)
- 110 mcg TWISTHALER: delivers 100 mcg mometasone furoate per actuation. (3)

### CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Patients with status asthmaticus or other acute episodes of asthma where intensive measures are required. (4)
- Patients with a *known* hypersensitivity to milk proteins or any ingredients of ASMANEX TWISTHALER. (4)

### WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- Candida albicans* infection of the mouth and pharynx. Monitor patients periodically for signs of adverse effects in the mouth and pharynx. After administration, advise patients to rinse mouth with water and spit out contents without swallowing. (5.1)
- Deterioration of asthma or acute episodes: ASMANEX TWISTHALER should not be used for relief of acute symptoms. Patients require immediate re-evaluation during rapidly deteriorating asthma. (5.2)
- Hypersensitivity reactions including anaphylaxis, angioedema, pruritus, and rash have been reported with the use of ASMANEX TWISTHALER. Discontinue ASMANEX TWISTHALER if such reactions occur. (5.3)
- Potential worsening of existing tuberculosis; fungal, bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection; or ocular herpes simplex. More serious or even fatal course of chickenpox or measles in susceptible patients. Use caution in patients with the above because of the potential for worsening of these infections. (5.4)
- Risk of impaired adrenal function when transferring from oral steroids to inhaled corticosteroids. Taper patients slowly from systemic corticosteroids if transferring to ASMANEX TWISTHALER. (5.5)
- Hypercorticism, suppression of hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) function, with very high dosages or at the regular dosage in susceptible individuals. If such changes occur discontinue ASMANEX TWISTHALER slowly. (5.6)
- Reduction in bone mineral density with long-term administration. Monitor patients with major risk factors for decreased bone mineral content. (5.7)
- Suppression of growth in children. Monitor growth routinely in pediatric patients receiving ASMANEX TWISTHALER. (5.8)
- Glaucoma and cataracts. Consider referral to an ophthalmologist in patients who develop ocular symptoms or use ASMANEX TWISTHALER long term. (5.9)
- Paradoxical bronchospasm may occur with ASMANEX TWISTHALER. Treat bronchospasm immediately with a fast-acting inhaled bronchodilator and discontinue use of ASMANEX TWISTHALER. (5.10)
- Strong cytochrome P450 3A4 inhibitors (e.g., ritonavir): Risk of increased systemic corticosteroid effects. Exercise caution when used with ASMANEX TWISTHALER. (5.11)

### ADVERSE REACTIONS

The most common adverse reactions (incidence ≥5%) are headache, allergic rhinitis, pharyngitis, upper respiratory tract infection, sinusitis, oral candidiasis, dysmenorrhea, musculoskeletal pain, back pain, and dyspepsia. (6.1)

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., at 1-877-888-4231 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch).

### DRUG INTERACTIONS

- Strong cytochrome P450 3A4 inhibitors (e.g., ritonavir): Use with caution. May cause increased systemic corticosteroid effects. (7.1)

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION and FDA-approved patient labeling.

Revised: 02/2021

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**FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION**

**1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

ASMANEX® TWISTHALER® is indicated for the maintenance treatment of asthma as prophylactic therapy in adult and pediatric patients 4 years of age and older.

Limitations of Use

ASMANEX TWISTHALER is not indicated for the relief of acute bronchospasm.

ASMANEX TWISTHALER is not indicated in children less than 4 years of age.

**2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**Administration Information**

Administer ASMANEX TWISTHALER by the orally inhaled route only. Instruct patients to inhale rapidly and deeply. After administration, advise patients to rinse the mouth with water and spit out contents without swallowing. Individual patients will experience a variable time to onset and degree of symptom relief. Maximum benefit may not be achieved for 1 to 2 weeks or longer after initiation of treatment. After asthma stability has been achieved, it is desirable to titrate to the lowest effective dosage to reduce the possibility of side effects. For patients ≥12 years of age who do not respond adequately to the starting dose after 2 weeks of therapy, higher doses may provide additional asthma control. The safety and efficacy of ASMANEX TWISTHALER when administered in excess of recommended doses have not been established.

**2.1 Recommended Dosages in Adult and Pediatric Patients 4 Years of Age and Older**

The recommended starting doses and highest recommended daily dose for ASMANEX TWISTHALER treatment based on prior asthma therapy are provided in **Table 1**.

<b>Table 1: Recommended Dosages for ASMANEX TWISTHALER Treatment</b>		
<b>Previous Therapy</b>	<b>Recommended Starting Dose</b>	<b>Highest Recommended Daily Dose</b>
Patients ≥12 years who received bronchodilators alone	220 mcg once daily in the evening*	440 mcg†
Patients ≥12 years who received inhaled corticosteroids	220 mcg once daily in the evening*	440 mcg†
Patients ≥12 years who received oral corticosteroids‡	440 mcg twice daily	880 mcg
Children 4-11 years of age§	110 mcg once daily in the evening*	110 mcg*

\* When administered once daily, ASMANEX TWISTHALER should be taken only in the evening.

† The 440 mcg daily dose may be administered in divided doses of 220 mcg twice daily or as 440 mcg once daily.

**‡ For Patients Currently Receiving Chronic Oral Corticosteroid Therapy:**

Prednisone should be reduced no faster than 2.5 mg/day on a weekly basis, beginning after at least 1 week of ASMANEX TWISTHALER therapy. Monitor patients carefully for signs of asthma instability, including serial objective measures of airflow, and for signs of adrenal insufficiency during steroid taper and

following discontinuation of oral corticosteroid therapy [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.5)].

§ Recommended pediatric dosage is 110 mcg once daily in the evening regardless of prior therapy.

### 3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

Inhalation powder:

- ASMANEX TWISTHALER 220 mcg delivers 200 mcg mometasone furoate per actuation from the mouthpiece.
- ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 mcg delivers 100 mcg mometasone furoate per actuation from the mouthpiece.

### 4 CONTRAINDICATIONS

ASMANEX TWISTHALER is contraindicated:

- Status Asthmaticus: in the primary treatment of status asthmaticus or other acute episodes of asthma where intensive measures are required.
- Hypersensitivity: in patients with *known* hypersensitivity to milk proteins or any ingredients of ASMANEX TWISTHALER [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.3) and *Description* (11)].

### 5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

#### 5.1 Oropharyngeal Candidiasis

In clinical trials, the development of localized infections of the mouth and pharynx with *Candida albicans* occurred in 195 of 3007 patients treated with ASMANEX TWISTHALER. If oropharyngeal candidiasis develops, it should be treated with appropriate local or systemic (i.e., oral) antifungal therapy while remaining on treatment with ASMANEX TWISTHALER therapy, but at times therapy with the ASMANEX TWISTHALER may need to be interrupted. After administration, advise patients to rinse the mouth with water and spit out contents without swallowing.

#### 5.2 Acute Asthma Episodes

ASMANEX TWISTHALER is not a bronchodilator and is not indicated for rapid relief of bronchospasm or other acute episodes of asthma. A short acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist, such as albuterol, should be available at all times to treat acute asthma symptoms. Instruct patients to contact their physician immediately if episodes of asthma that are not responsive to bronchodilators occur during the course of treatment with ASMANEX TWISTHALER. During such episodes, patients may require therapy with oral corticosteroids.

#### 5.3 Hypersensitivity Reactions Including Anaphylaxis

Hypersensitivity reactions including rash, pruritus, angioedema, and anaphylactic reaction have been reported with use of ASMANEX TWISTHALER. Discontinue ASMANEX TWISTHALER if such reactions occur [see *Contraindications* (4) and *Adverse Reactions* (6.2)].

ASMANEX TWISTHALER contains small amounts of lactose, which contains trace levels of milk proteins. In postmarketing experience with ASMANEX TWISTHALER, anaphylactic reactions in patients with milk protein allergy have been reported [see *Contraindications* (4) and *Adverse Reactions* (6.2)].

#### 5.4 Immunosuppression and Risk of Infections

Persons who are using drugs that suppress the immune system are more susceptible to infections than healthy individuals. Chickenpox and measles, for example, can have a more serious or even fatal course in susceptible children or adults using corticosteroids. In such children or adults who have not had these diseases or who are not properly immunized, particular care should be taken to avoid exposure. How the dose, route, and duration of corticosteroid administration affect the risk of developing a disseminated infection is not known. The contribution of the underlying disease and/or prior corticosteroid treatment to the risk is also not known. If exposed to chickenpox, prophylaxis with varicella zoster immune globulin (VZIG) may be indicated. If exposed to measles, prophylaxis with pooled intramuscular immunoglobulin (IG) may be indicated. (See the respective package inserts for complete VZIG and IG prescribing information.) If chickenpox develops, treatment with antiviral agents may be considered.

Inhaled corticosteroids should be used with caution, if at all, in patients with active or quiescent tuberculosis infection of the respiratory tract; untreated systemic fungal, bacterial, viral, or parasitic infections; or ocular herpes simplex.

## **5.5 Transferring Patients from Systemic Corticosteroid Therapy**

### HPA Suppression/Adrenal Insufficiency

Particular care is needed for patients who are transferred from systemically active corticosteroids to ASMANEX TWISTHALER because deaths due to adrenal insufficiency have occurred in asthmatic patients during and after transfer from systemic corticosteroids to less systemically available inhaled corticosteroids. After withdrawal from systemic corticosteroids, a number of months are required for recovery of hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) function.

Patients who have been previously maintained on 20 mg or more per day of prednisone (or its equivalent) may be most susceptible, particularly when their systemic corticosteroids have been almost completely withdrawn. During this period of HPA suppression, patients may exhibit signs and symptoms of adrenal insufficiency when exposed to trauma, surgery, or infection (particularly gastroenteritis) or other conditions associated with severe electrolyte loss. Although ASMANEX TWISTHALER may improve control of asthma symptoms during these episodes, in recommended doses it supplies less than normal physiological amounts of corticosteroid systemically and does NOT provide the mineralocorticoid activity necessary for coping with these emergencies.

During periods of stress or severe asthma attack, patients who have been withdrawn from systemic corticosteroids should be instructed to resume oral corticosteroids (in large doses) immediately and to contact their physicians for further instruction. These patients should also be instructed to carry a medical identification card indicating that they may need supplementary systemic corticosteroids during periods of stress or severe asthma attack.

Patients requiring oral corticosteroids should be weaned slowly from systemic corticosteroid use after transferring to ASMANEX TWISTHALER. Prednisone reduction can be accomplished by reducing the daily prednisone dose by 2.5 mg on a weekly basis during treatment with ASMANEX TWISTHALER [see *Dosage and Administration (2.1)*]. Lung function (FEV<sub>1</sub> or PEF<sub>R</sub>), beta-agonist use, and asthma symptoms should be carefully monitored during withdrawal of oral corticosteroids. In addition to monitoring asthma signs and symptoms, patients should be observed for signs and symptoms of adrenal insufficiency such as fatigue, lassitude, weakness, nausea and vomiting, and hypotension.

### Unmasking of Allergic Conditions Previously Suppressed by Systemic Corticosteroids

Transfer of patients from systemic corticosteroid therapy to ASMANEX TWISTHALER may unmask allergic conditions previously suppressed by the systemic corticosteroid therapy, e.g., rhinitis, conjunctivitis, eczema, arthritis, and eosinophilic conditions.

### Corticosteroid Withdrawal Symptoms

During withdrawal from oral corticosteroids, some patients may experience symptoms of systemically active corticosteroid withdrawal, e.g., joint and/or muscular pain, lassitude, and depression, despite maintenance or even improvement of respiratory function.

## **5.6 Hypercorticism and Adrenal Suppression**

ASMANEX TWISTHALER will often help control asthma symptoms with less suppression of HPA function than therapeutically similar oral doses of prednisone. Since individual sensitivity to effects on cortisol production exists, physicians should consider this information when prescribing ASMANEX TWISTHALER. Particular care should be taken in observing patients postoperatively or during periods of stress for evidence of inadequate adrenal response. It is possible that systemic corticosteroid effects such as hypercorticism and adrenal suppression may appear in a small number of patients, particularly

when ASMANEX TWISTHALER is administered at higher than recommended doses over prolonged periods of time. If such effects occur, the dosage of ASMANEX TWISTHALER should be reduced slowly, consistent with accepted procedures for reducing systemic corticosteroids and for management of asthma.

### **5.7 Reduction in Bone Mineral Density**

Decreases in bone mineral density (BMD) have been observed with long-term administration of products containing inhaled corticosteroids, including mometasone furoate. The clinical significance of small changes in BMD with regard to long-term outcomes is unknown. Patients with major risk factors for decreased bone mineral content, such as prolonged immobilization, family history of osteoporosis, or chronic use of drugs that can reduce bone mass (e.g., anticonvulsants and corticosteroids) should be monitored and treated with established standards of care.

In a 2-year double-blind study in 103 male and female asthma patients 18 to 50 years of age previously maintained on bronchodilator therapy (baseline FEV<sub>1</sub> 85%-88% predicted), treatment with ASMANEX TWISTHALER 220 mcg twice daily resulted in significant reductions in lumbar spine (LS) BMD at the end of the treatment period compared to placebo. The mean change from baseline to endpoint in the lumbar spine BMD was -0.015 (-1.43%) for the ASMANEX TWISTHALER group compared to 0.002 (0.25%) for the placebo group. In another 2-year double-blind study in 87 male and female asthma patients 18 to 50 years of age previously maintained on bronchodilator therapy (baseline FEV<sub>1</sub> 82%-83% predicted), treatment with ASMANEX TWISTHALER 440 mcg twice daily demonstrated no statistically significant changes in lumbar spine BMD at the end of the treatment period compared to placebo. The mean change from baseline to endpoint in the lumbar spine BMD was -0.018 (-1.57%) for the ASMANEX TWISTHALER group compared to -0.006 (-0.43%) for the placebo group.

### **5.8 Effect on Growth**

Orally inhaled corticosteroids, including ASMANEX TWISTHALER, may cause a reduction in growth velocity when administered to pediatric patients. Monitor the growth of pediatric patients receiving ASMANEX TWISTHALER routinely (e.g., via stadiometry). To minimize the systemic effects of orally inhaled corticosteroids, including ASMANEX TWISTHALER, titrate each patient's dose to the lowest dosage that effectively controls his/her symptoms [*see Use in Specific Populations (8.4)*].

### **5.9 Glaucoma and Cataracts**

In clinical trials, glaucoma, increased intraocular pressure, and cataracts have been reported in 8 of 3007 patients following the administration of ASMANEX TWISTHALER. Consider referral to an ophthalmologist in patients who develop ocular symptoms or use ASMANEX TWISTHALER long term.

### **5.10 Paradoxical Bronchospasm**

As with other inhaled asthma medications, bronchospasm may occur with an immediate increase in wheezing after dosing. If bronchospasm occurs following dosing with ASMANEX TWISTHALER, it should be treated immediately with a fast-acting inhaled bronchodilator.

Treatment with ASMANEX TWISTHALER should be discontinued and alternative therapy instituted.

### **5.11 Drug Interactions with Strong Cytochrome P450 3A4 Inhibitors**

Caution should be exercised when considering the coadministration of ASMANEX TWISTHALER with ketoconazole, and other known strong CYP3A4 inhibitors (e.g., ritonavir, cobicistat-containing products, atazanavir, clarithromycin, indinavir, itraconazole, nefazodone, nelfinavir, saquinavir, telithromycin) because adverse effects related to increased systemic exposure to mometasone furoate may occur [*see Drug Interactions (7.1) and Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)*].

## **6 ADVERSE REACTIONS**

The following clinically significant adverse reactions are described elsewhere in the labeling:

- Oropharyngeal Candidiasis [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*]
- Immunosuppression and Risk of Infections [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.4)*]
- Hypercorticism and Adrenal Suppression [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.6)*]

- Reduction in Bone Mineral Density [see Warnings and Precautions (5.7)]
- Growth Effects [see Warnings and Precautions (5.8) and Use in Specific Populations (8.4)]
- Glaucoma and Cataracts [see Warnings and Precautions (5.9)]

### 6.1 Clinical Studies Experience

The safety data described below reflect exposure to ASMANEX TWISTHALER in 2380 patients with asthma exposed for 8 to 12 weeks and 627 patients with asthma exposed for 1 year in a total of 17 clinical trials.

In adult and adolescent patients 12 years of age and older, ASMANEX TWISTHALER was studied in 10 placebo-controlled clinical trials of 8 to 12 weeks duration with a total of 1750 patients receiving ASMANEX TWISTHALER. There were also 3 trials with a total of 475 patients receiving ASMANEX TWISTHALER for 1 year. In the 8- to 12-week clinical trials, the population was 12 to 83 years of age; 38% males and 62% females; and 83% Caucasian, 8% black, 6% Hispanic, and 3% other race/ethnicity. Patients received ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 mcg twice daily (n=133), 220 mcg once daily in the morning (n=209), 220 mcg once daily in the evening (n=232), 220 mcg twice daily (n=433), 440 mcg once daily in the morning (n=419), 440 mcg once daily in the evening (n=250), or 440 mcg twice daily (n=74). In 3 long-term safety trials (two 9-month extensions of efficacy trials and one 52-week active-controlled safety trial), 475 patients with asthma (12-83 years of age, 44% males, 56% females, 87% Caucasian, 8% black, 4% Hispanic, and 1% other race/ethnicity) received various doses of ASMANEX TWISTHALER for 1 year.

In pediatric patients 4 to 11 years of age, ASMANEX TWISTHALER was studied in 3 placebo-controlled clinical trials of 12 weeks duration with a total of 630 patients receiving ASMANEX TWISTHALER and a 52-week, active-controlled safety trial with a total of 152 patients receiving ASMANEX TWISTHALER. In the 12-week clinical trials, the population was 4 to 11 years of age; 63% males and 37% females; and 67% Caucasian, 13% black, 17% Hispanic, and 3% other race/ethnicity. Patients received ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 mcg once daily in the evening (n=98), 110 mcg once daily in the morning (n=181), 110 mcg twice daily (n=179), or 220 mcg once daily in the morning (n=172). In the long-term active-controlled safety trial (n=152), patients with asthma (4 to 11 years of age, 60% males and 40% females, 84% Caucasian, 11% Black, and 5% Hispanic) received ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 mcg twice daily or 220 mcg once daily in the morning for 52 weeks.

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical trials of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in practice.

Adults and Adolescents 12 Years of Age and Older: The safety results of the 10 trials that were 8 to 12 weeks in duration were pooled because patients with asthma in these studies were previously maintained on bronchodilators and/or inhaled corticosteroids. The safety results of the one 12-week clinical trial in patients with asthma previously treated with oral corticosteroids are presented separately.

In the pooled 8- to 12-week clinical trials, adverse reactions were reported in 70% of patients treated with ASMANEX TWISTHALER (n=1750) compared to 65% of patients taking placebo (n=720). Table 2 displays the common adverse reactions ( $\geq 3\%$  in any patient group receiving ASMANEX TWISTHALER) that occurred more frequently in patients treated with ASMANEX TWISTHALER compared to patients treated with placebo.

<b>Table 2: Adverse Reactions with <math>\geq 3\%</math> Incidence in 10 Controlled Clinical Trials with ASMANEX TWISTHALER in Patients 12 Years of Age and Older Previously on Bronchodilators and/or Inhaled Corticosteroids</b>		
	<b>(%) of Patients</b>	
	<b>ASMANEX TWISTHALER</b>	<b>Placebo</b>

<b>Adverse Reaction</b>	<b>220 mcg twice daily (n=433)</b>	<b>440 mcg once daily (n=497)</b>	<b>220 mcg once daily in the evening (n=232)</b>	<b>(n=720)</b>
<b>Headache</b>	22	17	20	20
<b>Allergic Rhinitis</b>	15	11	14	13
<b>Pharyngitis</b>	11	8	13	7
<b>Upper Respiratory Infection</b>	10	8	15	7
<b>Sinusitis</b>	6	6	5	5
<b>Candidiasis, oral</b>	6	4	4	2
<b>Dysmenorrhea*</b>	9	4	4	4
<b>Musculoskeletal Pain</b>	8	4	4	5
<b>Back Pain</b>	6	3	3	4
<b>Dyspepsia</b>	5	3	3	3
<b>Myalgia</b>	3	2	3	2
<b>Abdominal Pain</b>	3	2	3	2
<b>Nausea</b>	3	1	3	2
<b>Average Duration of Exposure (Days)</b>	81	70	80	62

\* Percentages are based on the number of female patients.

The following other adverse reactions occurred in these clinical trials with an incidence of at least 1% but less than 3% and were more common on ASMANEX TWISTHALER therapy than on placebo:

*Body as a Whole:* fatigue, flu-like symptoms, pain

*Gastrointestinal:* gastroenteritis, vomiting, anorexia

*Hearing, Vestibular:* earache

*Resistance Mechanism:* infection

*Respiratory:* dysphonia, epistaxis, nasal irritation, respiratory disorder, throat dry

In the 12-week trial in adult asthmatics who previously required oral corticosteroids, the effects of ASMANEX TWISTHALER therapy administered as two 220-mcg inhalations twice daily (n=46) were compared with those of placebo (n=43). Adverse reactions, whether considered drug-related or not by the investigators, reported in more than 3 patients in the ASMANEX TWISTHALER treatment group, and which occurred more frequently than in placebo were (ASMANEX TWISTHALER % vs. placebo %): musculoskeletal pain (22% vs. 14%), oral candidiasis (22% vs. 9%), sinusitis (22% vs. 19%), allergic rhinitis (20% vs. 5%), upper respiratory infection (15% vs. 14%), arthralgia (13% vs. 7%), fatigue (13% vs. 2%), depression (11% vs. 0%), and sinus congestion (9% vs. 0%). In considering these data, an increased duration of exposure for patients on ASMANEX TWISTHALER treatment (77 days vs. 58 days on placebo) should be taken into account.

Long-Term Clinical Trials Experience - 12 Years of Age and Older: In 3 long-term safety trials, 475 patients with asthma 12 years of age and older were treated with ASMANEX TWISTHALER 220 mcg twice daily (n=60), 220 mcg once daily in the morning (n=41), 220 mcg once daily in the evening (n=40), 440 mcg once daily in the morning (n=44), 440 mcg once daily in the evening (n=41), 440 mcg twice daily (n=62), 880 mcg once daily (n=59), or at variable doses (n=128) for 52 weeks. The safety profile of ASMANEX TWISTHALER in the 52-week trials was similar to the findings in the 8- to 12-week clinical trials. In patients previously on inhaled corticosteroids, cataracts were reported in 3 patients (0.9%) treated with ASMANEX TWISTHALER, compared to 1 patient (1.7%) treated with the active comparator medication. Increased ocular pressure at the end of the study was observed in 2 patients, both on ASMANEX TWISTHALER 880 mcg once daily in the morning. Oral candidiasis, dysphonia, and dysmenorrhea were seen at a higher frequency with long-term administration than in the 8- to 12-week trials.

Pediatric Patients 4 to 11 Years of Age: In the three 12-week clinical trials in pediatric patients 4 to 11 years of age, patients with asthma were previously maintained on bronchodilators and/or inhaled corticosteroids. The safety results from 1 trial are described in Table 3 for ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 mcg once daily in the evening. The safety results from the other 2 trials showed similar findings.

Overall adverse reactions were reported with approximately the same frequency by patients treated with ASMANEX TWISTHALER and those receiving placebo. Table 3 displays the common adverse reactions ( $\geq 2\%$  in any patient group receiving ASMANEX TWISTHALER) that occurred more frequently in patients 4 to 11 years of age treated with ASMANEX TWISTHALER compared with placebo-treated patients.

<b>Table 3: Adverse Reactions with <math>\geq 2\%</math> Incidence in a 12-Week Study with ASMANEX TWISTHALER in Patients 4 to 11 Years of Age Previously on Bronchodilators and/or Inhaled Corticosteroids</b>		
<b>Adverse Reaction</b>	<b>(%) of Patients</b>	
	<b>ASMANEX TWISTHALER</b>	<b>Placebo</b>
	<b>110 mcg once daily in the evening (n=98)</b>	<b>(n=99)</b>
<b>Fever</b>	7	5
<b>Allergic Rhinitis</b>	4	3
<b>Abdominal Pain</b>	6	2
<b>Vomiting</b>	3	2
<b>Urinary Tract Infection</b>	2	1
<b>Bruise</b>	2	0
<b>Average Duration of Exposure (Days)</b>	72	68

Long-Term Clinical Trials Experience in Children 4 to 11 Years of Age: In a 52-week, active-controlled, long-term safety trial, 152 patients with asthma 4 to 11 years of age were treated with ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 mcg twice daily (n=74) or 220 mcg once daily (n=78). The safety profile for ASMANEX TWISTHALER in the 52-week trial was similar to the findings in the 12-week clinical trials.

## 6.2 Postmarketing Experience

The following adverse reactions have been reported during post-approval use of ASMANEX TWISTHALER. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure.

Eye disorders: Vision blurred [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.9)].

Immune System Disorders: Immediate and delayed hypersensitivity reactions including rash, pruritus, angioedema and anaphylactic reaction [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.3) and *Contraindications* (4)].

Respiratory, Thoracic and Mediastinal Disorders: Asthma aggravation, which may include cough, dyspnea, wheezing and bronchospasm.

## 7 DRUG INTERACTIONS

In clinical studies, the concurrent administration of ASMANEX TWISTHALER and other drugs commonly used in the treatment of asthma was not associated with any unusual adverse reactions.

### 7.1 Inhibitors of Cytochrome P450 3A4

Concomitant administration of CYP3A4 inhibitors may inhibit the metabolism of, and increase the systemic exposure to, mometasone furoate and potentially increase the risk for systemic corticosteroid side effects [see *Clinical Pharmacology* (12.3)]. Caution should be exercised when considering the

coadministration of ASMANEX TWISTHALER with long-term ketoconazole and other known strong CYP3A4 inhibitors (e.g., ritonavir, cobicistat-containing products, atazanavir, clarithromycin, indinavir, itraconazole, nefazodone, nelfinavir, saquinavir, telithromycin). Consider the benefit of coadministration versus the potential risk of systemic corticosteroid effects, in which case patients should be monitored for systemic corticosteroid side effects.

## 8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

### 8.1 Pregnancy

#### Risk Summary

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of ASMANEX TWISTHALER in pregnant women. There are clinical considerations with the use of ASMANEX TWISTHALER in pregnant women [see *Clinical Considerations*]. In animal reproduction studies with pregnant mice, rats, or rabbits, mometasone furoate caused increased fetal malformations and decreased fetal survival and growth following administration of doses that produced exposures approximately 1/3 to 8 times the maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) on a mcg/m<sup>2</sup> or AUC basis [see *Data*]. However, experience with oral corticosteroids suggests that rodents are more prone to teratogenic effects from corticosteroid exposure than humans.

The estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage for the indicated population is unknown. In the U.S. general population, the estimated risk of major birth defects and miscarriage in clinically recognized pregnancies is 2 to 4% and 15 to 20%, respectively.

#### Clinical Considerations

##### *Disease-associated maternal and/or embryo/fetal risk*

In women with poorly or moderately controlled asthma, there is an increased risk of several perinatal adverse outcomes such as preeclampsia in the mother and prematurity, low birth weight, and small for gestational age in the neonate. Pregnant women with asthma should be closely monitored and medication adjusted as necessary to maintain optimal asthma control.

#### Data

##### *Animal Data*

In an embryofetal development study with pregnant mice dosed throughout the period of organogenesis, mometasone furoate produced cleft palate at an exposure approximately 1/3 of the MRHD (on a mcg/m<sup>2</sup> basis with maternal subcutaneous doses of 60 mcg/kg and above) and decreased fetal survival at an exposure approximately equivalent to the MRHD (on a mcg/m<sup>2</sup> basis with a maternal subcutaneous dose of 180 mcg/kg). No toxicity was observed with a dose that produced an exposure approximately 1/10 of the MRHD (on a mcg/m<sup>2</sup> basis with maternal topical dermal doses of 20 mcg/kg and above).

In an embryofetal development study with pregnant rats dosed throughout the period of organogenesis, mometasone furoate produced fetal umbilical hernia at exposures approximately 6 times the MRHD (on a mcg/m<sup>2</sup> basis with maternal topical dermal doses of 600 mcg/kg and above) and delays in fetal ossification at exposures approximately 3 times the MRHD (on a mcg/m<sup>2</sup> basis with maternal topical dermal doses of 300 mcg/kg and above).

In another reproductive toxicity study, pregnant rats were dosed with mometasone furoate throughout pregnancy or late in gestation. Treated animals had prolonged and difficult labor, fewer live births, lower birth weight, and reduced early pup survival at an exposure that was approximately 6 times the MRHD (on an area under the curve (AUC) basis with a maternal subcutaneous dose of 15 mcg/kg). There were no findings with an exposure approximately 3 times the MRHD (on an AUC basis with a maternal subcutaneous dose of 7.5 mcg/kg).

Embryofetal development studies were conducted with pregnant rabbits dosed with mometasone furoate by either the topical dermal route or oral route throughout the period of organogenesis. In the study using the topical dermal route, mometasone furoate caused multiple malformations in fetuses (e.g., flexed front paws, gallbladder agenesis, umbilical hernia, hydrocephaly) at an exposure approximately 3 times the MRHD (on a mcg/m<sup>2</sup> basis with maternal topical dermal doses of 150 mcg/kg and above). In the

study using the oral route, mometasone furoate caused increased fetal resorptions and cleft palate and/or head malformations (hydrocephaly and domed head) at an exposure approximately 1/2 of the MRHD (on an AUC basis with a maternal oral dose of 700 mcg/kg). At an exposure approximately 2 times the MRHD (on an AUC basis with a maternal oral dose of 2800 mcg/kg), most litters were aborted or resorbed. No effects were observed at an exposure approximately 1/10 of the MRHD (on an AUC basis with a maternal oral dose of 140 mcg/kg).

## 8.2 Lactation

### Risk Summary

There are no available data on the presence of ASMANEX TWISTHALER in human milk, the effects on the breastfed child, or the effects on milk production. Other inhaled corticosteroids, similar to mometasone furoate, are present in human milk. The developmental and health benefits of breastfeeding should be considered along with the mother's clinical need for ASMANEX TWISTHALER and any potential adverse effects on the breastfed infant from ASMANEX TWISTHALER or from the underlying maternal condition.

## 8.4 Pediatric Use

The safety and effectiveness of ASMANEX TWISTHALER for maintenance treatment of asthma as prophylactic therapy have been established in children 4 years of age and older. Use of ASMANEX TWISTHALER in pediatric patients 12 years of age and older is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled clinical trials in this patient population [see *Clinical Studies (14.1)* and *Adverse Reactions (6.1)*].

Use of ASMANEX TWISTHALER in pediatric patients 4 to 11 years of age is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled clinical trials of 12 weeks duration in 630 patients 4 to 11 years of age receiving ASMANEX TWISTHALER and one 52-week safety trial in 152 patients [see *Clinical Studies (14.1)* and *Adverse Reactions (6.1)*].

Controlled clinical studies have shown that inhaled corticosteroids may cause a reduction in growth in pediatric patients. In these studies, the mean reduction in growth velocity was approximately 1 cm per year (range: 0.3-1.8 per year) and appears to depend upon dose and duration of exposure. This effect was observed in the absence of laboratory evidence of HPA axis suppression, suggesting that growth velocity is a more sensitive indicator of systemic corticosteroid exposure in pediatric patients than some commonly used tests of HPA axis function. The long-term effects of this reduction in growth velocity associated with orally inhaled corticosteroids, including the impact on final adult height, are unknown. The potential for "catch-up" growth following discontinuation of treatment with orally inhaled corticosteroids has not been adequately studied. The growth of children and adolescents (4 years of age and older) receiving orally inhaled corticosteroids, including ASMANEX TWISTHALER, should be monitored routinely (e.g., via stadiometry).

A 52-week, placebo-controlled, parallel-group study was conducted to assess the potential growth effects of ASMANEX TWISTHALER in 187 prepubescent children (131 males and 56 females) 4 to 9 years of age with asthma who were previously maintained on an inhaled beta-agonist. Treatment groups included ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 mcg twice daily (n=44), 220 mcg once daily in the morning (n=50), 110 mcg once daily in the morning (n=48), and placebo (n=45). For each patient, an average growth rate was determined using an individual regression approach. The mean growth rates, expressed as least-squares mean in cm per year, for ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 mcg twice daily, 220 mcg once daily in the morning, 110 mcg once daily in the morning, and placebo were 5.34, 5.93, 6.15, and 6.44, respectively. The differences from placebo and the corresponding 2-sided 95% CI of growth rates for ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 mcg twice daily, 220 mcg once daily in the morning, and 110 mcg once daily in the morning were -1.11 (95% CI: -2.34, 0.12), -0.51 (95% CI: -1.69, 0.67), and -0.30 (95% CI: -1.48, 0.89), respectively.

The potential growth effects of prolonged treatment with orally inhaled corticosteroids should be weighed against clinical benefits obtained and the availability of safe and effective noncorticosteroid treatment

alternatives. To minimize the systemic effects of orally inhaled corticosteroids, including ASMANEX TWISTHALER, each patient should be titrated to his/her lowest effective dose.

### 8.5 Geriatric Use

A total of 175 patients 65 years of age and over (23 of whom were 75 years of age and older) have been treated with ASMANEX TWISTHALER in controlled clinical trials. No overall differences in safety or effectiveness were observed between these and younger patients, and other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients, but greater sensitivity of some older individuals cannot be ruled out.

### 8.6 Hepatic Impairment

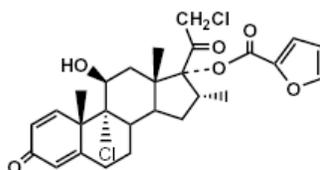
Concentrations of mometasone furoate appear to increase with severity of hepatic impairment [see *Clinical Pharmacology* (12.3)].

## 10 OVERDOSAGE

Chronic overdosage may result in signs/symptoms of hypercorticism [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.6)]. Because of low systemic bioavailability and an absence of acute drug-related systemic findings in clinical studies, acute overdose is unlikely to require any treatment other than observation.

## 11 DESCRIPTION

Mometasone furoate, the active component of the ASMANEX TWISTHALER product, is a corticosteroid with the chemical name 9,21-dichloro-11(Beta),17-dihydroxy-16(alpha)-methylpregna-1,4-diene-3,20-dione 17-(2-furoate) and the following chemical structure:



Mometasone furoate is a white powder with an empirical formula of  $C_{27}H_{30}Cl_2O_6$ , and molecular weight of 521.44 Daltons.

The ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 mcg and 220 mcg products are cap-activated, inhalation-driven, multidose dry powder inhalers containing mometasone furoate and anhydrous lactose (which contains trace amounts of milk proteins).

Each actuation of the ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 mcg or 220 mcg inhaler provides a measured dose of approximately 0.75 or 1.5 mg mometasone furoate inhalation powder, containing 110 or 220 mcg of mometasone furoate, respectively. This results in delivery of 100 or 200 mcg mometasone furoate from the mouthpiece, respectively, based on *in vitro* testing at flow rates of 30 L/min and 60 L/min with constant volume of 2 L. The amount of mometasone furoate emitted from the inhaler *in vitro* does not differ significantly for flow rates ranging from 28.3 L/min to 70 L/min at a constant volume of 2 L. However, the amount of drug delivered to the lung will depend on patient factors such as inspiratory flow and peak inspiratory flow through the device. In adult and adolescent patients (aged  $\geq 12$  years) with varied asthma severity, mean peak inspiratory flow rate through the device was 69 L/min (range: 54-77 L/min). In pediatric patients (aged 5-12 years) diagnosed with asthma, mean peak inspiratory flow rate in the 5- to 8-year-old subgroup was  $>50$  L/min (minimum of 46 L/min) and for the 9- to 12-year-old subgroup was  $>60$  L/min (minimum of 48 L/min).

## 12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

### 12.1 Mechanism of Action

Mometasone furoate is a corticosteroid demonstrating potent anti-inflammatory activity. The precise mechanism of corticosteroid action on asthma is not known. Inflammation is an important component in the pathogenesis of asthma. Corticosteroids have been shown to have a wide range of inhibitory effects

on multiple cell types (e.g., mast cells, eosinophils, neutrophils, macrophages, and lymphocytes) and mediators (e.g., histamine, eicosanoids, leukotrienes, and cytokines) involved in inflammation and in the asthmatic response. These anti-inflammatory actions of corticosteroids may contribute to their efficacy in asthma.

Mometasone furoate has been shown *in vitro* to exhibit a binding affinity for the human glucocorticoid receptor, which is approximately 12 times that of dexamethasone, 7 times that of triamcinolone acetonide, 5 times that of budesonide, and 1.5 times that of fluticasone. The clinical significance of these findings is unknown.

Though effective for the treatment of asthma, corticosteroids do not affect asthma symptoms immediately. Maximum improvement in symptoms following inhaled administration of mometasone furoate may not be achieved for 1 to 2 weeks or longer after starting treatment. When corticosteroids are discontinued, asthma stability may persist for several days or longer.

## 12.2 Pharmacodynamics

**Adrenal Function:** The effects of ASMANEX TWISTHALER on adrenal function have been evaluated in 2 clinical studies: 1 in adults 18 years of age and older and 1 in pediatric patients 6 to 11 years of age. Both clinical studies were specifically designed to assess the effect of ASMANEX TWISTHALER on adrenal function.

In a 29-day, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study in 64 adult and adolescent patients 18 years of age and older with asthma, ASMANEX TWISTHALER 440 mcg twice daily and 880 mcg twice daily (twice the highest recommended daily dose) were compared to both placebo and prednisone 10 mg once daily as a positive control. The 30-minute post-Cosyntropin stimulation serum cortisol concentration on Day 29 was 23.2 mcg/dL for the ASMANEX 440 mcg twice daily group (n=16) and 20.8 mcg/dL for the ASMANEX 880 mcg twice daily group (n=16), compared to 14.5 mcg/dL for the oral prednisone 10-mg group (n=16) and 25 mcg/dL for the placebo group (n=16). The difference between ASMANEX 880 mcg twice daily (twice the maximum recommended dose) and placebo was statistically significant.

In a 29-day, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group clinical trial in 50 pediatric patients 6 to 11 years of age with asthma, ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 mcg twice daily, 220 mcg twice daily, and 440 mcg twice daily (2-8 times the highest pediatric daily recommended daily dose) were compared to placebo. HPA-axis function was assessed by 12-hour plasma cortisol AUC and 24-hour urinary-free cortisol concentrations. After 29 days of treatment, the mean changes in plasma cortisol AUC<sub>0-12h</sub> from baseline were -0.11, -19.5, -21.3, and -3.47 mcg•hr/dL for the treatment groups of ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 mcg twice daily (n=12), 220 mcg twice daily (n=12), 440 mcg twice daily (n=11), and placebo (n=7), respectively. The mean differences from placebo in the groups treated with ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 mcg twice daily, 220 mcg twice daily, and 440 mcg twice daily were 3.4 mcg•hr/dL (95% CI: -14.0, 20.7), -16.0 mcg•hr/dL (95% CI: -33.9, 1.9), and -17.9 mcg•hr/dL (95% CI: -35.8, 0.0), respectively. For 24-hour urinary-free cortisol, after 29 days of treatment, the mean changes from baseline were -1.53, -1.33, -6.70, and -4.68 mcg/day for the groups treated with ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 mcg twice daily (n=12), 220 mcg twice daily (n=12), 440 mcg twice daily (n=12), and placebo (n=10), respectively. The mean differences in urinary-free cortisol changes from baseline compared to placebo were 3.1 mcg/day (95% CI: -3.3, 9.6), 3.3 mcg/day (95% CI: -3.0, 9.7), and -2.0 mcg/day (95% CI: -8.6, 4.6) for the groups treated with 110 mcg twice daily, 220 mcg twice daily, and 440 mcg twice daily, respectively.

## 12.3 Pharmacokinetics

**Absorption:** Following a 1000 mcg inhaled dose of tritiated mometasone furoate inhalation powder to 6 healthy human subjects, plasma concentrations of unchanged mometasone furoate were shown to be very low compared to the total radioactivity in plasma. Following an inhaled single 400 mcg dose of ASMANEX TWISTHALER treatment to 24 healthy subjects, plasma concentrations for most subjects were near or below the lower limit of quantitation for the assay (50 pcg/mL). The mean absolute systemic bioavailability of the above single inhaled 400 mcg dose, compared to an intravenous 400 mcg dose of

mometasone furoate, was determined to be less than 1%. Following administration of the recommended highest inhaled dose (400 mcg twice daily) to 64 patients for 28 days, concentration-time profiles were discernible, but with large intersubject variability. The coefficient of variation for  $C_{max}$  and AUC ranged from approximately 50% to 100%. The mean peak plasma concentrations at steady state ranged from approximately 94 to 114 pcg/mL and the mean time to peak levels ranged from approximately 1.0 to 2.5 hours.

**Distribution:** Based on the study employing a 1000 mcg inhaled dose of tritiated mometasone furoate inhalation powder in humans, no appreciable accumulation of mometasone furoate in the red blood cells was found. Following an intravenous 400 mcg dose of mometasone furoate, the plasma concentrations showed a biphasic decline, with a mean terminal half-life of about 5 hours and the mean steady-state volume of distribution of 152 L. The *in vitro* protein binding for mometasone furoate was reported to be 98% to 99% (in a concentration range of 5-500 ng/mL).

**Elimination:**

**Metabolism:** Studies have shown that mometasone furoate is primarily and extensively metabolized in the liver of all species investigated and undergoes extensive metabolism to multiple metabolites. *In vitro* studies have confirmed the primary role of CYP3A4 in the metabolism of this compound; however, no major metabolites were identified.

**Excretion:** Following an intravenous dosing, the terminal half-life was reported to be about 5 hours. Following the inhaled dose of tritiated 1000 mcg mometasone furoate, the radioactivity is excreted mainly in the feces (a mean of 74%), and to a small extent in the urine (a mean of 8%) up to 7 days. No radioactivity was associated with unchanged mometasone furoate in the urine.

**Specific Populations:**

Pharmacokinetics have not been adequately investigated with ASMANEX TWISTHALER by gender, race or in pediatric patients.

**Patients with Hepatic Impairment:** Administration of a single inhaled dose of 400 mcg mometasone furoate to subjects with mild (n=4), moderate (n=4), and severe (n=4) hepatic impairment resulted in only 1 or 2 subjects in each group having detectable peak plasma concentrations of mometasone furoate (ranging from 50-105 pcg/mL). The observed peak plasma concentrations appear to increase with severity of hepatic impairment; however, the numbers of detectable levels were few.

**Patients with Renal Impairment:** The effects of renal impairment on mometasone furoate pharmacokinetics have not been adequately investigated.

**Drug Interaction Studies: Inhibitors of Cytochrome P450 3A4:** In a drug interaction study, an inhaled dose of mometasone furoate 400 mcg was given to 24 healthy subjects twice daily for 9 days and ketoconazole 200 mg (as well as placebo) were given twice daily concomitantly on Days 4 to 9. Mometasone furoate plasma concentrations were <150 pcg/mL on Day 3 prior to coadministration of ketoconazole or placebo. Following concomitant administration of ketoconazole, 4 out of 12 subjects in the ketoconazole treatment group (n=12) had peak plasma concentrations of mometasone furoate >200 pcg/mL on Day 9 (211-324 pcg/mL).

## 13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

### 13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

In a 2-year carcinogenicity study in Sprague Dawley® rats, mometasone furoate demonstrated no statistically significant increase in the incidence of tumors at inhalation doses up to 67 mcg/kg (approximately 8 times the maximum recommended daily inhalation dose in adults on an AUC basis and 2 times the maximum recommended daily inhalation dose in pediatric patients based on an mcg/m<sup>2</sup> basis). In a 19-month carcinogenicity study in Swiss CD-1 mice, mometasone furoate demonstrated no statistically significant increase in the incidence of tumors at inhalation doses up to 160 mcg/kg (approximately 10 times the maximum recommended daily inhalation dose in adults on an AUC basis).

and 2 times the maximum recommended daily inhalation dose in pediatric patients based on an mcg/m<sup>2</sup> basis).

Mometasone furoate increased chromosomal aberrations in an *in vitro* Chinese hamster ovary cell assay, but did not have this effect in an *in vitro* Chinese hamster lung cell assay. Mometasone furoate was not mutagenic in the Ames test or mouse lymphoma assay, and was not clastogenic in an *in vivo* mouse micronucleus assay, a rat bone marrow chromosomal aberration assay, or a mouse male germ-cell chromosomal aberration assay. Mometasone furoate also did not induce unscheduled DNA synthesis *in vivo* in rat hepatocytes.

In reproductive studies in rats, impairment of fertility was not produced by subcutaneous doses up to 15 mcg/kg (approximately 6 times the maximum recommended daily inhalation dose in adults on an AUC basis).

### **13.2 Animal Toxicology and/or Pharmacology**

Reproductive Toxicology Studies: In mice, mometasone furoate caused cleft palate at subcutaneous doses of 60 mcg/kg and above (less than the maximum recommended daily inhalation dose in adults on an mcg/m<sup>2</sup> basis). Fetal survival was reduced at 180 mcg/kg (approximately equal to the maximum recommended daily inhalation dose in adults on an mcg/m<sup>2</sup> basis). No toxicity was observed at 20 mcg/kg (less than the maximum recommended daily inhalation dose in adults on an mcg/m<sup>2</sup> basis).

In rats, mometasone furoate produced umbilical hernia at topical dermal doses of 600 mcg/kg and above (approximately 6 times the maximum recommended daily inhalation dose in adults on an mcg/m<sup>2</sup> basis). A dose of 300 mcg/kg (approximately 3 times the maximum recommended daily inhalation dose in adults on an mcg/m<sup>2</sup> basis) produced delays in ossification but no malformations.

When rats received subcutaneous doses of mometasone furoate throughout pregnancy or during the later stages of pregnancy, 15 mcg/kg (approximately 6 times the maximum recommended daily inhalation dose in adults on an AUC basis) caused prolonged and difficult labor and reduced the number of live births, birth weight, and early pup survival. Similar effects were not observed at 7.5 mcg/kg (approximately 3 times the maximum recommended daily inhalation dose in adults on an AUC basis).

In rabbits, mometasone furoate caused multiple malformations (e.g., flexed front paws, gallbladder agenesis, umbilical hernia, hydrocephaly) at topical dermal doses of 150 mcg/kg and above (approximately 3 times the maximum recommended daily inhalation dose in adults on an mcg/m<sup>2</sup> basis). In an oral study, mometasone furoate increased resorptions and caused cleft palate and/or head malformations (hydrocephaly and domed head) at 700 mcg/kg (less than the maximum recommended daily inhalation dose in adults on an area under the curve [AUC] basis). At 2800 mcg/kg (approximately 2 times the maximum recommended daily inhalation dose in adults on an AUC basis) most litters were aborted or resorbed. No toxicity was observed at 140 mcg/kg (less than the maximum recommended daily inhalation dose in adults on an AUC basis).

## **14 CLINICAL STUDIES**

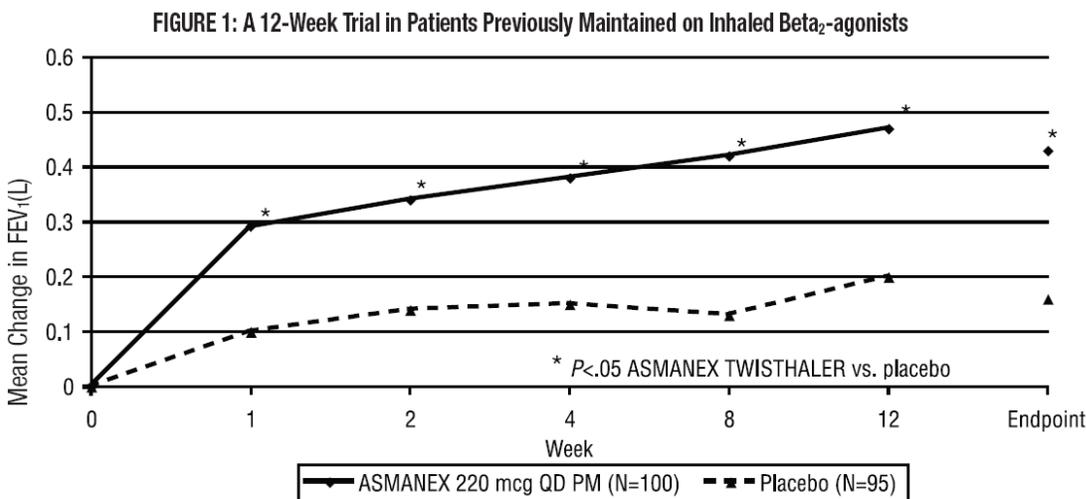
### **14.1 Asthma**

Adults and Adolescents 12 Years of Age and Older: The efficacy of ASMANEX TWISTHALER in patients with asthma 12 years and older was evaluated in ten 8- to 12-week, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group clinical trials. These trials included 1750 patients ranging from 12 to 83 years of age; 38% male and 62% female; and 83% Caucasian, 8% black, 6% Hispanic, and 3% other race/ethnicity. Patients received ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 mcg twice daily (n=133), 220 mcg once daily in the morning (n=209), 220 mcg once daily in the evening (n=232), 220 mcg twice daily (n=433), 440 mcg once daily in the morning (n=419), 440 mcg once daily in the evening (n=250), or 440 mcg twice daily (n=74). The results of the clinical trials are presented based upon previous asthma therapy.

Patients ≥12 Years of Age Previously Maintained on Bronchodilators Alone: ASMANEX TWISTHALER was studied in three 12-week, double-blind trials in 737 patients with mild to moderate asthma (mean baseline FEV<sub>1</sub>±2.6 L, 72% of predicted normal) who were maintained on short-acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonists

alone. The first 2 trials evaluated doses of 440 mcg administered as 2 inhalations once daily in the morning and 1 of these studies also evaluated 220 mcg twice daily. In both trials, morning predose FEV<sub>1</sub> was significantly improved at endpoint (last observation) following treatment with 440 mcg ASMANEX TWISTHALER once daily in the morning as compared to placebo (14% vs. 2.5%, respectively, in 1 trial and 16% vs. 5.5% in the other). There was also a significant improvement in morning predose FEV<sub>1</sub> at endpoint following treatment with ASMANEX TWISTHALER 220 mcg twice daily. Other measures of lung function (morning and evening PEF<sub>r</sub>) also showed improvement compared to placebo. Patients receiving ASMANEX TWISTHALER treatment had reduced frequency of beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist rescue medication use compared to those on placebo (mean reductions at endpoint 2.2 and 0.5 puffs per day, respectively, from a baseline of 4.1 puffs/day). Additionally, fewer patients receiving ASMANEX TWISTHALER 440 mcg once daily experienced asthma worsening than did patients receiving placebo.

In the third trial, 195 asthmatic patients were treated with ASMANEX TWISTHALER 220 mcg once daily in the evening or placebo. The morning FEV<sub>1</sub> at endpoint was significantly improved compared to placebo (mean change at endpoint 0.43 L or 16.8% vs. 0.16 L or 6%, respectively, see **Figure 1**). Evening PEF increased 24.96 L/min (7%) from baseline in the ASMANEX TWISTHALER group compared to 8.67 L/min (4%) in placebo.

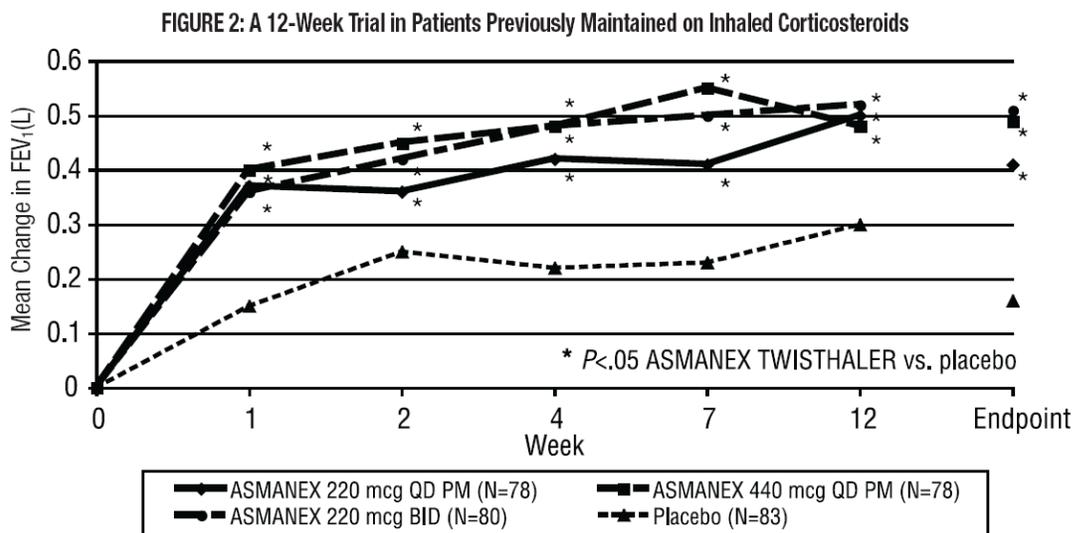


Patients ≥12 Years of Age Previously Maintained on Inhaled Corticosteroids: The efficacy and safety of ASMANEX TWISTHALER in doses ranging from 110 mcg twice daily to 440 mcg twice daily was evaluated in 3 trials in 1072 patients previously maintained on inhaled corticosteroids. In the first 2 trials, asthmatic patients (mean baseline FEV<sub>1</sub> ~2.6 L, 76% predicted) were previously on either beclomethasone dipropionate [84-1200 mcg/day], flunisolide [100-2000 mcg/day], fluticasone propionate [110-880 mcg/day], or triamcinolone acetonide [300-2400 mcg/day]. The first trial included 307 patients who were treated in an open-label fashion with ASMANEX TWISTHALER 220 mcg (110 mcg x 2 inhalations) twice daily for 2 weeks followed by 12 weeks of double-blind treatment with ASMANEX TWISTHALER 440 mcg once daily in the morning or placebo. The second trial involved 365 patients who continued on their previous dose of inhaled corticosteroids during a 2-week screening period before being switched to ASMANEX TWISTHALER 440 mcg twice daily, 220 mcg twice daily, 110 mcg twice daily, beclomethasone dipropionate 168 mcg twice daily, or placebo for 12 weeks.

In the first trial, morning predose FEV<sub>1</sub> was effectively maintained (-1.4% change from baseline to endpoint) over the 12 weeks in the patients who were randomized to ASMANEX TWISTHALER 440 mcg once daily in the morning, while decreasing 10% at endpoint in those switched to placebo. In addition, fewer patients treated with ASMANEX TWISTHALER experienced worsening of asthma compared to placebo.

In the second trial, morning predose FEV<sub>1</sub> was significantly increased at endpoint when patients were switched to ASMANEX TWISTHALER 220 mcg twice daily (7% increase) or 440 mcg twice daily (6.2% increase) as compared to a decrease of 7% when switched to placebo. Additionally, beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist rescue medication use was decreased for patients who received ASMANEX TWISTHALER treatment relative to those on placebo (mean reduction from baseline to endpoint 1.1 puffs/day vs. increase of 0.7 puffs/day). Fewer patients receiving ASMANEX TWISTHALER treatment experienced asthma worsening than did patients receiving placebo.

The third trial evaluated the efficacy and safety of ASMANEX TWISTHALER compared to placebo in 400 asthmatic patients (mean FEV<sub>1</sub> 67% predicted at baseline) previously maintained on beclomethasone dipropionate (hydrofluoroalkane [HFA] or chlorofluorocarbon [CFC]) 168-600 mcg/day, budesonide 200-1200 mcg/day, flunisolide 500-2000 mcg/day, fluticasone propionate 88-880 mcg/day, or triamcinolone acetonide 400-1600 mcg/day. Following a 28-day inhaled corticosteroid dose-reduction phase, patients were randomized to ASMANEX TWISTHALER 440 mcg once daily in the evening, 220 mcg once daily in the evening, 220 mcg twice daily, or placebo. At endpoint, patients who received ASMANEX TWISTHALER 220 mcg once daily in the evening, 440 mcg once daily in the evening, or 220 mcg twice daily had a significant improvement in morning FEV<sub>1</sub> [0.41 L (19%), 0.49 L (22%), and 0.51 L (24%) in the 220 mcg once daily in the evening, 440 mcg once daily in the evening, and 220 mcg twice daily treatment group, respectively] compared to placebo [0.16 L (8%)] (see Figure 2). Evening PEF increased 15.65 L/min (4.1%) with the 220 mcg once daily in the evening dose, 39.26 L/min (10.7%) with the 440 mcg once daily in the evening dose, and 36.7 L/min (10.8%) with the 220 mcg twice daily dose, respectively, compared to a 1.4 L/min (1%) increase with placebo. Patients receiving all doses of ASMANEX TWISTHALER treatment had reduced frequency of beta-agonist rescue medication use compared to those on placebo (mean reductions at endpoint of 1.4-1.8 puffs/day from a baseline of more than 3 puffs/day compared to an increase in use by 0.5 puffs/day for placebo). In addition, fewer patients receiving ASMANEX TWISTHALER experienced asthma worsening than did those on placebo.



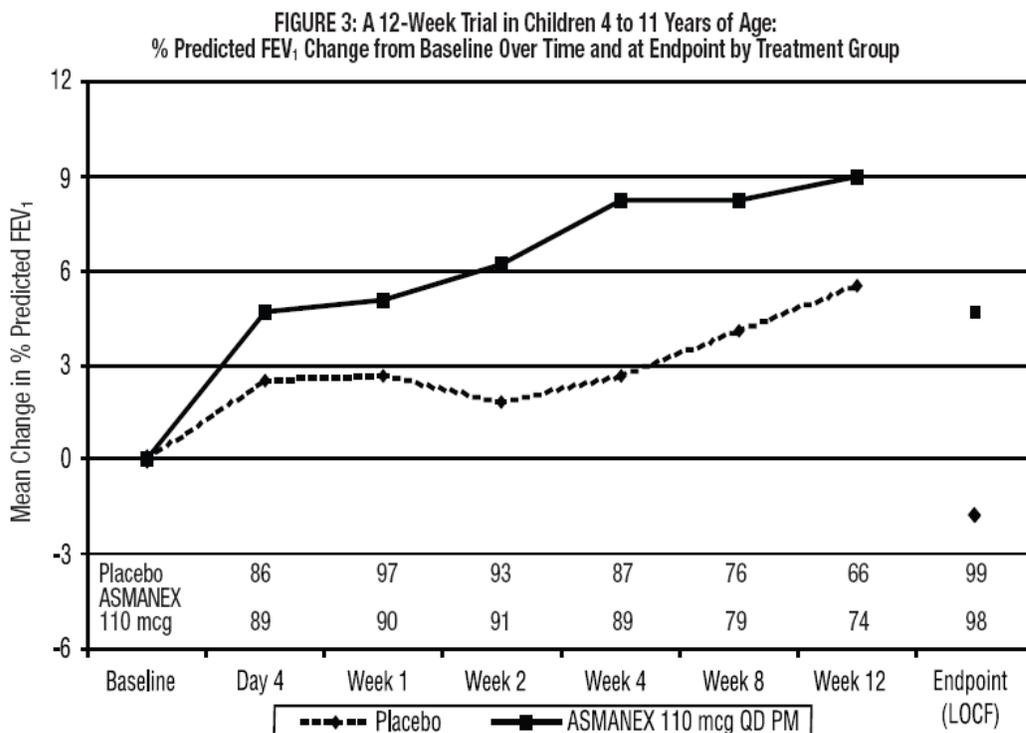
**Patients  $\geq 12$  Years of Age Previously Maintained on Oral Corticosteroids:** The efficacy of ASMANEX TWISTHALER 440 mcg and 880 mcg twice daily was evaluated in one 12-week, double-blind trial in patients previously maintained on oral corticosteroids. A total of 132 patients requiring oral prednisone (baseline mean daily oral prednisone requirement approximately 12 mg; baseline FEV<sub>1</sub> of 1.8 L, 59% of predicted normal), most of whom were also on inhaled corticosteroids (baseline inhaled steroid: beclomethasone dipropionate [168-840 mcg/day], budesonide [800-1600 mcg/day], flunisolide [1000-2000 mcg/day], fluticasone propionate [440-1760 mcg/day], or triamcinolone acetonide [400-2400 mcg/day]) were studied. Patients who received ASMANEX TWISTHALER 440 mcg twice daily had a significant reduction in their oral prednisone (46%) as compared to placebo (164% increase in oral prednisone dose). Additionally, 40% of patients on ASMANEX TWISTHALER 440 mcg twice daily were

able to completely discontinue their use of prednisone, whereas 60% of patients on placebo had an increase in daily prednisone use. Patients on ASMANEX TWISTHALER had significant improvement in lung function (14% increase) compared to a 12% decrease in FEV<sub>1</sub> in the placebo group. Additionally, mean rescue beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist use was reduced to approximately 3 puffs/day from a baseline of 4-5 puffs/day with ASMANEX TWISTHALER treatment, compared to an increase of 0.3 puffs/day on placebo. Patients who received ASMANEX TWISTHALER 880 mcg twice daily experienced no additional benefit beyond that seen with 440 mcg twice daily.

**Pediatric Patients 4 to 11 Years of Age:** The efficacy of ASMANEX TWISTHALER in patients with asthma 4 to 11 years of age was evaluated in three 12-week, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group clinical trials. These trials included 630 patients receiving ASMANEX TWISTHALER, ranging from 4 to 11 years of age; 63% male and 37% female; and 67% Caucasian, 13% black, 17% Hispanic, and 3% other race/ethnicity. Patients received ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 mcg once daily in the evening (n=98), 110 mcg once daily in the morning (n=181), 110 mcg twice daily (n=179), or 220 mcg once daily in the morning (n=172). The results for 1 clinical trial are described below. The other 2 clinical trials support the efficacy of ASMANEX TWISTHALER.

A 12-week, placebo-controlled trial of 296 patients 4 to 11 years of age with asthma of at least 6 months duration (mean % predicted FEV<sub>1</sub> at baseline ranging from 77.3%-79.7%) was conducted to demonstrate the efficacy of the ASMANEX TWISTHALER in the treatment of asthma. Patients were treated with ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 mcg once daily in the evening (n=98) or placebo (n=99) for 12 weeks. Assessment of efficacy was based upon morning predose FEV<sub>1</sub>. The primary endpoint was the mean change from baseline to endpoint in percent-predicted FEV<sub>1</sub>. For the primary endpoint, improvement in the ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 mcg once daily in the evening treatment group (4.73) was statistically significant compared to placebo (-1.77). Figure 3 displays the results for % predicted FEV<sub>1</sub> change from baseline at endpoint.

In this study, secondary endpoints of morning and evening peak expiratory flow and rescue medication use were supportive of efficacy of ASMANEX TWISTHALER.



Note: Endpoint=last available data for each subject

## 16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

### How Supplied

*ASMANEX TWISTHALER 220 mcg*: delivers 200 mcg mometasone furoate from the mouthpiece

- comprised of an assembled plastic cap–activated dosing mechanism with dose counter, drug-product storage unit, drug-product formulation (135 mg for the 14 and 30 inhalation units and 240 mg for the 60 and 120 inhalation units), and mouthpiece, covered by a white screw cap that bears the product label.
- body of the inhaler is white and the turning grip is pink with a clear plastic window indicating the number of doses remaining. The inhaler will not deliver subsequent doses once the counter reaches zero (“00”).
- 14 inhalation units (Institutional Use Only; NDC# 0085-1341-06)
- 30 inhalation units (NDC# 0085-1341-07)
- 60 inhalation units (for more than 1 inhalation daily; NDC# 0085-1341-02)
- 120 inhalation units (for more than 2 inhalations daily; NDC# 0085-1341-01)

*ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 mcg*: delivers 100 mcg mometasone furoate from the mouthpiece

- comprised of an assembled plastic cap–activated dosing mechanism with dose counter, drug-product storage unit, drug-product formulation (135 mg), and mouthpiece, covered by a white screw cap that bears the product label.
- body of the inhaler is white and the turning grip is gray with a clear plastic window indicating the number of doses remaining. The inhaler will not deliver subsequent doses once the counter reaches zero (“00”).
- 7 inhalation units (Institutional Use Only; NDC# 0085-1461-07)
- 30 inhalation units (NDC# 0085-1461-02)

Each inhaler is supplied in a protective foil pouch with Patient’s Instructions for Use.

### Storage and Handling

Store in a dry place at 25°C (77°F); excursions permitted to 15°C to 30°C (59°F to 86°F) [see USP Controlled Room Temperature].

Discard the inhaler 45 days after opening the foil pouch or when dose counter reads “00”, whichever comes first.

## 17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

Advise the patient to read the FDA-approved patient labeling (Patient Information and Instructions for Use).

### Oropharyngeal Candidiasis

Patients should be advised that localized infections with *Candida albicans* occurred in the mouth and pharynx in some patients. If oropharyngeal candidiasis develops, it should be treated with appropriate local or systemic (i.e., oral) antifungal therapy while still continuing with ASMANEX TWISTHALER therapy, but at times therapy with ASMANEX TWISTHALER may need to be temporarily interrupted under close medical supervision. Rinsing the mouth after inhalation is advised [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*].

### Acute Asthma Episodes

Patients should be advised that ASMANEX TWISTHALER is not a bronchodilator and should not be used to treat status asthmaticus or to relieve acute asthma symptoms. Acute asthma symptoms should be treated with an inhaled, short-acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist such as albuterol [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.2)*].

### Hypersensitivity Reactions Including Anaphylaxis

Hypersensitivity reactions including rash, pruritus, angioedema and anaphylactic reaction have been reported with use of ASMANEX TWISTHALER. Discontinue ASMANEX TWISTHALER if such reactions occur [see *Contraindications (4), Warnings and Precautions (5.3), and Adverse Reactions (6.2)*].

ASMANEX TWISTHALER contains small amounts of lactose, which contains trace levels of milk proteins. In postmarketing experience with ASMANEX TWISTHALER, anaphylactic reactions in patients with milk protein allergy have been reported [see *Contraindications (4) and Adverse Reactions (6.2)*].

#### Immunosuppression and Risk of Infections

Patients who are on immunosuppressant doses of corticosteroids should be warned to avoid exposure to chickenpox or measles and, if exposed, to consult their physician without delay. Patients should be informed of potential worsening of existing tuberculosis; fungal, bacterial, viral, or parasitic infections; or ocular herpes simplex [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.4)*].

#### Hypercorticism and Adrenal Suppression

Patients should be advised that ASMANEX TWISTHALER may cause systemic corticosteroid effects of hypercorticism and adrenal suppression. Additionally, patients should be instructed that deaths due to adrenal insufficiency have occurred during and after transfer from systemic corticosteroids. Patients should taper slowly from systemic corticosteroids if transferring to ASMANEX TWISTHALER [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.6)*].

#### Reduction in Bone Mineral Density

Patients who are at an increased risk for decreased BMD should be advised that the use of corticosteroids may pose an additional risk and should be monitored and, where appropriate, be treated for this condition [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.7)*].

#### Reduced Growth Velocity

Patients should be informed that orally inhaled corticosteroids, including mometasone furoate inhalation powder, may cause a reduction in growth velocity when administered to pediatric patients. Physicians should closely follow the growth of children and adolescents taking corticosteroids by any route [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.8)*].

#### Use Daily for Best Effect

Patients should be advised to use ASMANEX TWISTHALER at regular intervals, since its effectiveness depends on regular use. Maximum benefit may not be achieved for 1 to 2 weeks or longer after starting treatment. If symptoms do not improve in that time frame or if the condition worsens, patients should be instructed to contact their physician.

#### Instructions for Use

Patients should be instructed to record the date of pouch opening on the cap label and discard the inhaler 45 days after opening the foil pouch or when the dose counter reads "00" and the final dose has been inhaled, whichever comes first. The inhaler should be held upright while removing the cap. The medication should be taken as directed, breathing rapidly and deeply, and patients should not breathe out through the inhaler. The mouthpiece should be wiped dry and the cap replaced immediately following each inhalation and rotated fully until the click is heard. After administration, the patient should rinse their mouth with water and spit out contents without swallowing. Patients should store the unit as instructed. The dose counter displays the doses remaining. When the dose counter indicates zero, the cap will lock and the unit must be discarded. Patients should be advised that if the dose counter is not working correctly, the unit should not be used and it should be brought to their physician or pharmacist.

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Manufactured for: Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., a subsidiary of  
 **MERCK & CO., INC.**, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889, USA

Manufactured by:  
MSD International GmbH (Singapore Branch)

Singapore 638030, Singapore

For patent information: [www.merck.com/product/patent/home.html](http://www.merck.com/product/patent/home.html)

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Patient Information  
ASMANEX® TWISTHALER® (AZ-ma-neks)  
(mometasone furoate inhalation powder)  
**for oral inhalation use only**

**What is ASMANEX TWISTHALER?**

ASMANEX TWISTHALER is an inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) prescription medicine used as maintenance treatment for the prevention and control of asthma symptoms in people 4 years of age and older.

- ASMANEX TWISTHALER is not used to treat sudden severe symptoms of asthma.
- ASMANEX TWISTHALER should not be used as a rescue inhaler.
- It is not known if ASMANEX TWISTHALER is safe and effective in children less than 4 years of age.

**Do not use ASMANEX TWISTHALER:**

- to treat sudden severe symptoms of asthma.
- if you are allergic to milk proteins, mometasone furoate, or any of the ingredients in ASMANEX TWISTHALER. See the end of this Patient Information leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in ASMANEX TWISTHALER.

Before you use ASMANEX TWISTHALER, tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions including if you:

- have liver problems.
- have osteoporosis.
- have an immune system problem.
- have eye problems such as increased pressure in the eye (glaucoma), cataracts, blurred vision, or other changes in your vision.
- are allergic to any medicines.
- are exposed to chickenpox or measles.
- have or have had tuberculosis (TB), any untreated fungal, bacterial or viral infections or parasitic infections, or eye infections caused by herpes.
- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if ASMANEX TWISTHALER may harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding. It is not known if ASMANEX TWISTHALER passes into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. You and your healthcare provider should decide if you will either take ASMANEX TWISTHALER or breastfeed.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

ASMANEX TWISTHALER may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how ASMANEX TWISTHALER works.

**Especially, tell your healthcare provider if you take antifungal medicines, antibiotic medicines, or anti-HIV medicines such as:**

- ritonavir
- atazanavir
- cobicistat-containing products
- ketoconazole
- clarithromycin
- nefazodone
- saquinavir
- nelfinavir
- telithromycin
- indinavir
- itraconazole

Ask your healthcare provider if you are not sure if any of your medicines are the kinds listed above.

For some medicines (including medicines for HIV such as ritonavir, cobicistat-containing products, and certain antifungals and antibiotics) your healthcare provider may wish to monitor you carefully.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist each time you get a new medicine.

### How should I use ASMANEX TWISTHALER?

#### Read the step-by-step instructions for using ASMANEX TWISTHALER in the Instructions for Use.

- Use ASMANEX TWISTHALER exactly as prescribed. **Do not** use ASMANEX TWISTHALER more often than prescribed.
- You must use ASMANEX TWISTHALER regularly. It may take 1 week to 2 weeks or longer after you start using ASMANEX TWISTHALER for your asthma symptoms to get better. **Do not** stop using ASMANEX TWISTHALER even if you are feeling better, unless your healthcare provider tells you to.
- **Do not** change or stop using ASMANEX TWISTHALER or other asthma medicines used to control or treat your breathing problems unless told to do so by your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will change your medicines as needed.
- ASMANEX TWISTHALER comes in 2 strengths. Your healthcare provider has prescribed the strength that is best for you. Pay attention to the differences between ASMANEX TWISTHALER and your other inhaled medicines, including their prescribed use and the way they look.
- ASMANEX TWISTHALER gives the medicine in a fine powder that you or your child may not taste, smell, or feel.
- If you take more ASMANEX TWISTHALER than your healthcare provider has prescribed, call your healthcare provider right away.
- ASMANEX TWISTHALER does not relieve sudden asthma symptoms. Always have a rescue inhaler such as albuterol with you to treat sudden symptoms. Use your rescue inhaler if you have breathing problems between doses of ASMANEX TWISTHALER. If you do not have a rescue inhaler such as albuterol, call your healthcare provider to have a rescue inhaler prescribed for you.
- Rinse your mouth with water after each dose of ASMANEX TWISTHALER. Spit out the water. **Do not** swallow it. This will help lessen the chance of getting a yeast infection (thrush) in your mouth and throat.
- **Call your healthcare provider or get medical care right away** if you have asthma and your symptoms do not improve after using ASMANEX TWISTHALER regularly for 1 to 2 weeks.
- **Do not** use the ASMANEX TWISTHALER if the inhaler or any of its parts are not working properly. Take it to your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

### What are the possible side effects of ASMANEX TWISTHALER?

#### ASMANEX TWISTHALER can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Thrush in your mouth and throat.** This is a serious but common side effect. You may develop thrush, a yeast (*Candida albicans*), in your mouth or throat. After each dose of ASMANEX TWISTHALER, rinse your mouth with water. Spit out the water. Do not swallow it. This will help to prevent thrush in your mouth or throat.
- **Increased wheezing right after taking ASMANEX TWISTHALER.** Always have a rescue inhaler with you to treat sudden wheezing.
- **Serious allergic reactions.** Stop taking ASMANEX TWISTHALER and call your healthcare provider or get emergency medical care right away if you get any of the following symptoms of a serious allergic reaction:
  - rash
  - itching
  - swelling, including swelling of the face, mouth, and tongue
  - breathing problems
- **Immune system effects and a higher chance for infections.** You are more likely to get infections if you take medicines that weaken your immune system. Avoid contact with people who have contagious diseases such as chicken pox or measles while using ASMANEX TWISTHALER. Tell your healthcare provider about any signs of infection such as:
  - fever
  - feeling tired
  - body aches
  - vomiting
  - pain
  - nausea
  - chills
- **Adrenal insufficiency that can lead to death** can happen when you stop taking oral corticosteroid medicines and start using inhaled corticosteroid medicines. Adrenal insufficiency can also happen in people who take higher doses of ASMANEX TWISTHALER than recommended over a long period of time. When your body is under stress such as from fever, trauma (such as a car accident), infection, or surgery, adrenal insufficiency can get worse. Symptoms of adrenal insufficiency include:
  - feeling tired or exhausted (fatigue)
  - lack of energy
  - low blood pressure (hypotension)
  - weakness
  - nausea and vomiting
  - dizziness or feeling faint
- **Lower bone mineral density.** This may be a problem for people who already have a higher chance for low bone density (osteoporosis).
- **Slowed growth in children.** A child's growth should be checked often.
- **Eye problems including glaucoma, cataracts, and blurred vision.** You should have regular eye exams while

using ASMANEX TWISTHALER.

**The most common side effects reported while using ASMANEX TWISTHALER include:**

- headache
- painful menstrual periods
- sinus infection
- upper respiratory tract infection
- upset stomach
- muscle and bone pain
- back pain
- nasal allergy symptoms
- sore throat

**Other side effects:** Worsening asthma or sudden asthma attacks have been reported with the use of inhaled mometasone furoate.

Tell your healthcare provider about any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the side effects with ASMANEX TWISTHALER. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for more information. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

**General information about the safe and effective use of ASMANEX TWISTHALER.**

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use ASMANEX TWISTHALER for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give your ASMANEX TWISTHALER to other people, even if they have the same condition that you have. It may harm them.

You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about ASMANEX TWISTHALER that was written for healthcare professionals.

For more information about ASMANEX TWISTHALER go to [www.merck.com/product/patient/home.html](http://www.merck.com/product/patient/home.html) or to report side effects call 1-877-888-4231.

**What are the ingredients in ASMANEX TWISTHALER?**

Active ingredient: mometasone furoate

Inactive ingredient: anhydrous lactose (which contains trace amounts of milk proteins).

Manufactured for: Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., a subsidiary of

 **MERCK & CO., INC.**, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889, USA

Manufactured by:

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Singapore 638030, Singapore

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This Patient Information has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Revised Date: 02//2021

**Instructions for Use**  
**ASMANEX® TWISTHALER® (AZ-ma-neks)**  
(mometasone furoate inhalation powder)  
**for oral inhalation use only**

It is important that you read this information as the ASMANEX TWISTHALER may work differently from inhalers you have used before.

Read this Instructions for Use before you start using ASMANEX TWISTHALER and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

**TWISTHALER Parts:**

See Figures A and B below to become familiar with the TWISTHALER parts.

- Remove the ASMANEX TWISTHALER from its foil pouch and write the date on the cap label.



Figure A: TWISTHALER (upright position)



Figure B: TWISTHALER with Cap Removed

- Follow Steps 1 and 2 below each time you inhale a dose from your ASMANEX TWISTHALER.

**Step 1: Open TWISTHALER**

Hold the TWISTHALER straight up (upright position) with the colored portion (the base) on the bottom (**see Figure C**). It is important that you remove the cap of the TWISTHALER while it is in this upright position to make sure that you get the right amount of medicine with each dose.

Holding the colored base, twist the cap in a counterclockwise direction to remove it (**see Figure C**). As you lift off the cap, the dose counter on the base will count down by one. Removing the cap loads the TWISTHALER with the medicine that you are now ready to inhale.

**Important:** The indented arrow (located on the white portion of the TWISTHALER, directly above the colored base) should now be pointing to the dose counter below. (**see Figure C**).

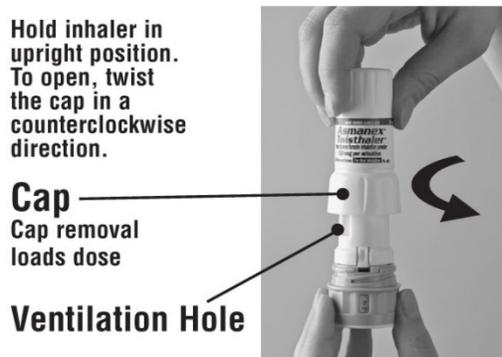
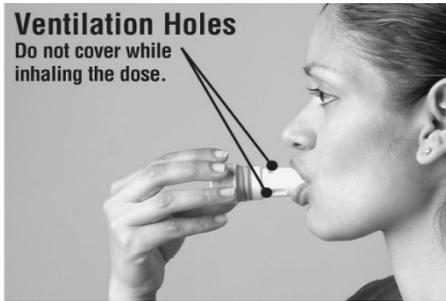


Figure C: Cap Removal Loads Dose

**Step 2: Inhale dose**

- Breathe out fully.

- Bring the TWISTHALER up to your mouth or your child’s mouth with the mouthpiece facing toward you or your child.
- Place the mouthpiece in your mouth or your child’s mouth, holding it in a horizontal (on its side) position as shown below **(see Figure D)**.
- Firmly close your lips around the mouthpiece and take in a **fast, deep breath**. Since the medicine is a very fine powder, you may not be able to taste, smell, or feel it after inhalation.
- **Do not** cover the ventilation holes while inhaling the dose.



**Figure D: Inhalation**

**Step 3: Hold breath**

- Remove the TWISTHALER from your mouth and hold your breath for about 10 seconds, or as long as you comfortably can.

**Important: Do not** breathe out (exhale) into the TWISTHALER.

**Step 4: Replace Cap and Close TWISTHALER**

- After you take your medicine, it is important that you wipe the mouthpiece dry, if needed, and then replace the cap right away, firmly closing the TWISTHALER right away **(see Figures E and F)**.

Be sure that the indented arrow is in line with the dose counter. Put the cap back onto the TWISTHALER and turn it in a clockwise direction, as you gently press down. You will hear a “click” to let you know that the cap is fully closed. This is the only way to be sure that your next dose is loaded the right way.

**Indented Arrow should line up with Dose Counter.**

**Replace cap and turn clockwise until “click”.**

**Indented Arrow  
Dose Counter**



**Figure E: Closing the TWISTHALER**

You'll hear a "click" to let you know that the cap is fully closed.

This is the only way to be sure that your next dose is properly loaded.



**Figure F: Closed TWISTHALER**

#### **Step 5: Rinse mouth**

- After using your TWISTHALER, rinse your mouth with water. Spit out the water. **Do not** swallow it.

#### **How should I clean and store the ASMANEX TWISTHALER?**

- Store ASMANEX TWISTHALER at room temperature between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).
- Keep dry. Avoid contact with liquids.
- Do not wash the ASMANEX TWISTHALER.
- Clean mouthpiece if needed by gently wiping with a dry cloth or tissue.
- Throw away the ASMANEX TWISTHALER 45 days after opening the foil pouch or when the dose counter reads "00" and you have inhaled the final dose, whichever comes first.
- **Keep the ASMANEX TWISTHALER and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

#### **How to know when the ASMANEX TWISTHALER is empty.**

- The TWISTHALER has a dose counter on the colored base, which shows the number of doses left to use.
- As you lift off the cap to take your dose, the dose counter on the base will count down by 1 (if you began with the dose counter reading "30" this will cause the dose counter to now read "29").
- Read the numbers from top to bottom.
- When the unit reads "01" this means this is the last dose.
- After dose "01" the counter will read "00".
- When you replace the cap, the unit will lock and then must be thrown away.
- Start using a new ASMANEX TWISTHALER as instructed by your health care provider.

This Instructions for Use has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration

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