**75. The new clinical spectrum of lung diseases: from bronchi to pleura**

*P483*  
**Different treatment courses with inhaled corticosteroids for eosinophilic bronchitis**  
Danyuan Xu, Kefang Lai, Jiaxing Xie, Wei Luo, Nanshan Zhong. State Key Laboratory of Respiratory Disease, Guangzhou Institute of Respiratory Disease, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China

**Background:** Eosinophilic bronchitis (EB) is a common cause of chronic cough. Inhaled corticosteroids can improve sputum eosinophilia and cough severity. However, the treatment course with inhaled corticosteroids for EB is unknown.

**Objective:** To observe the efficacy and recurrence in EB patients with different treatment courses of inhaled corticosteroids.

**Methods:** 60 patients diagnosed as EB were randomly divided into three groups with inhaled budesonide 200 μg twice daily via a turbohaler for 4 weeks, 8 weeks and 16 weeks respectively. Cough severity was assessed by visual analogue scale (VAS) and daytime cough symptom score at baseline and during the treatment period. Airway inflammation was assessed by sputum eosinophil count (Eos%). All the patients were followed up for 6 months after treatment.

**Results:** The daytime cough score after treatment decreased in all three groups (p<0.05), which was lower in 16 weeks group and 8 weeks group than 4 weeks group (p<0.05). The rate that VAS decreased over 80% after treatment were 55% in 4 weeks group, lower than 8 weeks, 16 weeks group (85%, 95%, p<0.05). The sputum eosinophil count decreased in all three group after treatment. The rate that sputum eosinophil count returned to normal level (Eos%<2.5%) in 8 weeks group (75%), 16 weeks group (95%) were significantly higher than 4 weeks group (50%, p<0.05). The rate of recurrence was 31.3%, 23.5%, 27.8% in 4, 8, 16 weeks group respectively. There are no significant difference among three groups.

**Conclusion:** Our results suggest that eosinophilic bronchitis should be treated with low-dose inhaled budesonide for over 8 weeks. Recurrence appear not to be related to treatment course.

*P484*  
**Impact on objective cough severity by continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) in subjects with chronic cough and obstructive sleep apnoea – A randomized controlled trial**  
Kevin Chan¹, Gavina Cossa², Leon Laks², Surinder Birring², Alvin Ing².  
¹Respiratory Medicine, Campbelltown Hospital, University of Western Sydney, Campbelltown, New South Wales, Australia; ²Thoracic Medicine, Concord Repatriation General Hospital, University of Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia; ³Respiratory Medicine, King’s College Hospital, London, United Kingdom

Recent studies have suggested chronic cough is prevalent in patients with sleep-disordered breathing (SDB). We investigated the effect of continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) on cough in patients with obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA) and chronic cough in a randomized controlled trial.

11 consecutive patients with OSA confirmed on polysomnography (respiratory disturbance index (RDI) >15/hour) and chronic cough >2months were recruited. All patients underwent a CPAP titration study. 1 patient did not tolerate CPAP. 10 Patients were randomized to receive sham CPAP (4 cm H₂O) or CPAP at pressures determined by the titration study for 1 month. The primary outcome was objective 24-hour cough count via the Leicester Cough Monitor (LCM).

7 (5 males) patients received sham CPAP and 3 (2 males) received titrated CPAP. There were no significant differences between groups [mean (SD)] in age [56.3...
Introduction: There is few data about war related bronchiolitis obliterans (BO) treatment. We compared FVC and FEV1 changes during BO treatment in comparison to non bronchiolitis obstructive pulmonary disease in a cohort of chemical victims.

Methods and materials: Seventy two Iranian veterans, with chronic pulmonary disease were followed from September 2005 to December 2010. All of them had documented exposure to Sulfur Mustard gas from 1982 to 1988. The bronchiolitis group (diagnosed based on HRCT and/or biopsy) was treated with inhaled Sereide (500-1000 μg/day). Azithromycin (500 mg/3 times per week) and N-acetylcysteine (1200-1800/day). The non bronchiolitis patients were treated according to GINA and GOLD guidelines.

Results: 16 patients had BO and 56 had non bronchiolitis obstructive pulmonary disease. The baseline FVC and FEV1 were not different between bronchiolitis and non bronchiolitis groups. Mean FVC and FEV1 has decreased significantly during the 5 years followup despite standard treatments in all patients (baseline FVC=3.50±0.78 L; Final FVC=2.71±0.77 L; P<0.001) and (baseline FEV1=2.77±0.80 L; Final FEV1=2.47±0.77 L; P<0.001). The FVC and FEV1 changes in bronchiolitis group were -0.30±0.18L and -0.15±0.52 L respectively. It was significantly different from FVC and FEV1 changes in non bronchiolitis group (>0.29±0.58L and >0.34±0.62 L respectively).

Discussion: The five year spirometric parametric changes were not different between bronchiolitis and non bronchiolitis group in mustard gas victims. This finding suggests the long term efficacy of treatment with inhaled steroid, macrolide and N-acetylcysteine in war related bronchiolitis obliterans.

P487

Long term efficacy of war related bronchiolitis obliterans treatment

Hamzadeh Abtaei1, Soheil Fereen1, Maryamossadat Moenizad Tehran2, 1Pulmonary and Critical Care Department, Imamkhomeini Medical Center; Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran; 2Pulmonary and Critical Care Department, Loghman Hospital, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Introduction: There is few data about war related bronchiolitis obliterans (BO) treatment. We compared FVC and FEV1 changes during BO treatment in comparison to non bronchiolitis obstructive pulmonary disease in a cohort of chemical victims.

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P488

Lung function disturbances and BAL IL-6 in adult patients with sickle cell disease in Bahrain

Adel Salah Bediwy1, Nasswa Noor2, Mohamed A. Hasanein 3. 1Chest Department, Faculty of Medicine, Tanta University, Tanta, Gharbia, Egypt; 2Internal Medicine Department, Faculty of Medicine, Tanta University, Tanta, Gharbia, Egypt; 3Biochemistry Department, Faculty of Medicine, Tanta University, Tanta, Gharbia, Egypt

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a common genetic disorder of hemoglobin in Bahrain with a lot of pulmonary complications either acute or chronic including its effect on pulmonary function tests (PFT). IL-6 is an inflammatory cytokine that was found to be high in sickle cell disease patients.

Objective: To study PFT and evaluate BAL IL-6 level in adult Bahraini patients with SCD and to correlate PFT values with BAL IL-6 and the recurrent occurrence of acute chest syndrome (ACS).

Methods: Study was done on 120 subjects (2 groups): group 1 (20 healthy controls) and group 2 (100 adult Bahraini SCD patients during steady state). PFT were done in all subjects. BAL IL-6 was done to all 120 SCD patients and control subjects to evaluate the BAL IL-6.

Results: PFT was abnormal in 85% of SCD patients with restrictive pattern (60%), isolated low DLCO (17%), obstructive pattern (5%) and mixed obstructive and restrictive pattern (3%). BAL IL-6 was higher in SCD patients than controls. In SCD patients, BAL IL-6 level had significant negative correlations with both FEV1, FVC, DLCO, and PaO2, with no significant correlation with TLC. There were significant positive correlations between BAL-IL-6 and both age and number of ACS. There were significant negative correlations between ACS number and both FEV1, DLCO, and PaO2, with no significant correlation between ACS number and both TLC and RV. There were significant negative correlations between age and both FEV1, TLC and DLCO.

Conclusion: Abnormal PFT in adult Bahraini SCD patients was correlated to BAL IL-6 and number of ACS indicating that impaired lung functions in this category of patients is caused by repeated vascular occlusion and increased airway inflammation.

Detailed accuracy of prescribing on admission during this period is detailed in Table 2. Conclusion: Our results show that inhaler prescribing in hospitalized patients is poor and hospital doctors need to prescribe the correct medication for the patient as a duty of care during their in-patient stay.

Abstract P486 - Table 2. Inhalers/nebulizers prescribed on drug chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SABA inh</th>
<th>SABA nebs</th>
<th>Steroid inh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17 (38.6%)</td>
<td>1 (2.3%)</td>
<td>2 (4.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 (64.7%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>16 (80.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 (58.8%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>2 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (11.8%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>5 (18.5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Combined LABA/Steroid

P489

Capsaicin sensitivity in patients with chronic refractory unexplained cough

Ewa Terenstsen Hasselus, Eva Miljung. Department of Internal Medicine/Respiratory Medicine and Allergology, Institute of Medicine, The Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Background: When known causes for cough are excluded there still remains
a group of patients with persistent coughing. They can be described as having chronic refractory unexplained cough. Sensory hyperreactivity (SHR) is one suggested explanation to cough and other airway symptoms induced by chemicals and scents. The patients can be identified using a capsaicin inhalation test. The aim was to analyze capsaicin sensitivity in a group of patients with chronic refractory unexplained cough. Further we wanted to evaluate a cough specific questionnaire.

Method: From an earlier cross sectional study in patients with chronic cough, 41 patients without chemical sensitivity (non sensitive group) and 35 patients with chemical sensitivity (sensitive group) were involved. The participants underwent a capsaicin inhalation test, and answered the Swedish version of Hull Airway Questionnaire (HARQ). A cut off limit of ≤ 13 score has been suggested as normal.

Results: 15 patients in the non sensitive group and 30 in the sensitive group participated. The mean total HARQ score was 18 in both groups. Capsaicin induced airway symptoms in chronic refractory unexplained cough, seems to be a prognostic factor that can cause prolonged symptoms. SHR is a possible explanation for this sub-group of cough patients. The HARQ questionnaire has a good ability to identify patients who for various reasons have chronic cough.

P490
Contribution of clinical pulmonary infection score in the diagnosis of hospital acquired pneumonia
Bircan Emre, Batur Keskin, Sedetim Mehmet Sezai Tusbakan, Ozen Kacmaz Basoglu, Alev Gurgun, Feza Bacakoglu, Chet Diseases, Ege University School of Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey

Introduction and aim: Clinical pulmonary infection score (CPS) is a scoring system calculated by symptoms and signs of pneumonia, that is used in the diagnosis and management of hospital acquired pneumonia (HAP). In this study, the contribution of CPS for diagnosis of HAP was investigated in intensive care unit (ICU) patients.

Methods: The ICU patients followed-up between February 2008 and September 2010 were assessed retrospectively. Hospital acquired pneumonia was diagnosed by quantitative endotracheal aspirate (ETA). CPS was calculated on 3rd and 7th days of ICU admission. The correlations of CPS with concurrent ETA cultures and laboratory markers of infection were assessed.

Results: Out of 240 patients (165 men, mean age 58.2±16.6 y) included in the study, ETA cultures were positive in 61 patients (25.4%) on 3rd day, and in 59 patients (24.6%) on 7th day. CPS was found higher in patients with ETA culture positive (5.5±2.3 vs. 3.5±2.1 on 3rd day, p<0.0001; 5.2±2.6 vs. 3.6±2.9 on 7th day, p<0.0001). Sensitivity and specificity ratios of CPS with a threshold level of 6.5 in diagnosis of HAP were 26.2% and 92.3% for 3rd day; 30.5% and 91.9% for 7th day, respectively. On 3rd and 7th days, there were positive correlations between CPS and C-reactive protein (CRP) levels (r=0.02 and p=0.001, respectively, and also between CPS and procalcitonin (PCT) levels (r=0.012 and p<0.0001, respectively).

Conclusion: Clinical pulmonary infection score can be used instead of infection markers like CRP and PCT in the diagnosis of hospital acquired pneumonia.

P491
Implementing a community acquired pneumonia care bundle in the acute hospital setting
Essam Ramhamadany, Sandra Wilson, Philip Eardley, Jasmin Cheema, Joel Johnson, Kamel Dokhia, May Kay, Ron Grant, Majed Shamat, Eamon Ramhamadany, Bobby Mann, Zul Mirza, A&E and Respiratory Department, West Middlesex University Hospital, Ealing, West, Middlesex, United Kingdom

Objective: The aims are to reliably deliver clinically effective and timely treatment in the management of CAP (community Acquired Pneumonia), to reduce overall variances in care, and to improve the quality of patient care and outcomes.

Methods: Using Improvement Methodology techniques the project team: Conducted a base line audit, mapped out current patient journey, arranged education sessions for relevant staff members, used a locally customised CAP bundle, and used the PDSA Cycle and the sustainability tools. A multi professional group, including patient representative, used a bespoke reporting tool to record weekly measures of bundle compliance. Non compliance was disseminated to the team for response and feedback. Project team meetings were held weekly, this gave the opportunity for all to monitor progress.

Results: A base line audit of 50 patients was compared with 200 patients in the CAP Care Bundle, over 18 months. There was an improvement in providing written information to patients from 0 to 88%, documenting the CURB-65 CAP severity score 32% to 94%, oxygen correctly prescribed 78% to 88%, timely administration of antibiotics within 4 hours of arrival to hospital from 54% to 88%, and antibiotic following BTS guidelines from 48% to 87%

Implications: Implementing a Care Bundle Pathway can improve patient care, but a high degree of perseverance is required to implement changes and sustain improvements. The success cannot be dependant on only a few champions but needs to have support from the organisation at all levels. The project was funded and supported by NW London CLAHRC.

P492
Evaluating the efficiency of complex treatment of influenza A (H1N1) in hospital conditions
Olga Titoiva1, Dmitri Larin1, Vladimir Volchikov1,2,1 Therapeutic Pulmonology, Institute of Pulmonology, I.P.Pavlov State Medical University, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation; 2Therapeutic Pulmonology, Hospital No. 32, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation

Aim: To study the efficiency of oseltamivir depending on the time of its administration to patients with typed A (H1N1) and non-typed influenza.

Methods: The prospective evaluation of disease severity, frequency of complications and mortality in hospital patients with influenza has been executed. 720 patients with suspicion on a virus infection were surveyed. From them at 373 patients the influenza A (H1N1) was typed by RT-PCR test. Shortness of breath was assessed by MRC scale, severity of patient state was estimated by scale APACHE II. Patients underwent x-rays, laboratory tests, spirometry and diffusion capacity of the lungs.

Results: At oseltamivir administration after 48 hours from the disease beginning efficiency of therapy decreased and frequency of complications increased. The severe course of influenza on APACHE II scale was accompanied by an increase in mortality (p<0.05). The disease prognosis worsened with an increase of dyspnea after normalization of temperature (p<0.019). The negative impact of obesity and diabetes on the disease course (p<0.004) was revealed.

Conclusion: The administration of oseltamivir later than 48 hours from onset of illness, severe state of patients on a scale of APACHE II, increase of dyspnea after decrease of temperature, obesity and diabetes mellitus are risk factors for complications and adverse outcome of influenza A (H1N1).

P493
Prediction of complications development and lethal outcome in patients with community-acquired pneumonia
Victor P. Kolosov1, Ekaterina Yu Kochevarova1, Svetlana V. Naryshkina2
1Laboratory of Prophylaxis of Nonspecific Lung Diseases, Far Eastern Scientific Center of Physiology and Pathology of Respiration SB RAMS, Blagoveschensk, Russian Federation; 2Department of Therapy, Amur State Medical Academy, Blagoveschensk, Russian Federation

Background: The prediction of community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) complications development may provide effective prophylaxis and prevent the lethal outcome.

Aim: The improvement of prophylaxis of CAP complications development and lethal outcome on the basis of prediction by inflammation markers.

Methods: 70 patients with CAP of different severity were examined. When the patient got into hospital his blood serum was tested on the level of procalcitonin (PCT) by immunochromatographic assay. Cytokines IL-2, IL-6 and TNF-α and also C-reactive protein (CRP) were identified by immune-enzyme assay.

Results: The level of CRP grew alongside with the severity of CAP, the highest level was 131.5±7.6 mg/l in severe form. CRP was 1.5 times higher in patients with complicated clinical course, the highest one was 155.3±14.7 mg/l (p<0.01) at the lethal outcome. The levels of cytokines in patients with developed complications were 2 times higher than in patients without complications. A high level of PCT was found in patients with complicated CAP (2,36±0,20 ng/ml, p<0,01) in comparison with uncomplicated one. At the lethal outcome the level of PCT was significantly higher (3,67±0,33 ng/ml). To predict the complications development the discriminant equation was derived: D= +3,611 PCT–0,035 CRP+2,281 IL–0,676 IL-2+0,076 IL-6+2,335 TNF-α, that is used in the diagnosis of pneumonia. The level of PCT, IL-2, IL-6, TNF-α and also C-reactive protein (CRP) were identified by immune-enzyme assay.

Conclusions: The level of PCT, IL-2, IL-6, TNF-α, CPR increases proportionally to severity of CAP. With the help of the proposed equation it is possible to predict the development of complications from the first day of patient getting into hospital.

P494
Findings in peripheral biopsy muscle in severe pneumonia due to H1N1 influenza
Maria Eugenia Dominguez Flores1, Monica Velazquez2, Rafael J. Hernandez-Zenteno3,4, Francisca Fernandez Valverde3,5, Steven Vargas Calas1,6, Alejandra Ramirez-Venegas7, Jose Luis Tellez Becerra2, Luis E. Payre8, Omar Batos9, Maria Eugenia Vazquez2, Patricia Ledezma9,10,11 Department of Pulmonary Rehabilitation, National Institute of Respiratory Disease, Mexico, DF, Mexico; 2Influenza Ward, National Institute of Respiratory Disease, Mexico, DF, Mexico; 3Muscular Dystrophy Clinic, National Institute of Neurology, Mexico, DF, Mexico; 4Thoracic Surgery, National Institute of Respiratory Disease, Mexico, DF, Mexico; 5Pathology, National Institute of Respiratory Disease, Mexico, DF, Mexico

Objective: Research about the muscle damage in H1N1 ISP, has not been studied yet.

Methods: Patients with community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) with severe pneumonia due to H1N1 strain in Influenza B. Muscle damage in H1N1 ISP, has not been studied yet.

Results: The project was funded and supported by NW London CLAHRC.
Objective: To evaluate physiological, morphological and metabolic characteristics in muscle biopsies from patients with severe muscular weakness after a H1N1 ISP.

Methods: A prospective cohort study was performed on all patients with critical illness and severe muscle weakness, who were admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) from January 1 to June 30, 2009. All patients were evaluated by colorimetric methods and a biochemical analyzer.

Results: All patients with H1N1 ISP presented metabolic and physiological muscular alterations compatible with myopathy or myopathy/neuropathy. This finding explains the severe muscle symptoms and the slow recovery even after discharge. An early physical rehabilitation program must be recommended.

Conclusions: This study showed that using pleural fluid cholesterol and pleural fluid cholesterol to serum cholesterol ratio (and a cut-off level of 0.4 as accepted and used Light’s criteria) can provide assistance especially where other criteria are marginal or ambiguous. Between transudates and exudates, and can provide assistance especially where other criteria are marginal or ambiguous.

Cutoffs were used to transfer continuous variables to dichotomous ones. Multivariate stepwise logistic regression analysis identified SpO2% and white blood cell count as independent predictive factors at p<0.05.

Conclusions: Acute respiratory failure and diminished immune response are the most powerful independent prognostic factors of poor outcome of viral-bacterial pneumonia during the H1N1 pandemic.

P497
Comparison of telomerase activity in malignant and benign pleural effusions

Rasoul Bahari. Pulmonary Medicine, IUMS, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Background: Despite advances in diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer, patients' survival has just improved in those with early stages. Telomerase is a tumor marker that has been focused recently as a novel tool for early diagnosis of lung cancer.

Objective: To compare telomerase activity in malignant and benign pleural effusions in Rasoul-e-Akram Hospital of Tehran.

Methods & materials: Telomerase activity in 28 consecutive pleural effusions (19 malignant and 9 benign; histopathologic diagnosis) was assessed with telomeric repeat amplification protocol (TRAP) between Apr. 2006 and Sep. 2007. Data analysis was performed by chi-squared test and t-test; results expressed as frequency, percent, and mean ± SD.

Result: 20 cases (71.4%) from the total of 28 pleural effusions were positive for telomerase activity. Telomerase activity was positive in all 19 malignant effusions, while only one effusion from benign conditions (TB) had telomerase activity (P=0.0001). Sensitivity, specificity and diagnostic accuracy of telomerase activity for detecting malignant pleural effusions were 100%, 88.9% and 96.4% respectively. Mean telomerase relative activity in malignant and benign effusions was not significantly different (24.3±5.2% vs. 15.05%; P>0.05).

Conclusion: Telomerase activity is a highly sensitive and specific diagnostic biomarker for malignancy and may be used as an adjunct to other diagnostic tools such as cytological findings for malignant pleural effusions.

P498
Evaluation of the utility of using pleural fluid cholesterol as a new criterion for the differential diagnosis between transudates and exudates

Kostas Kosmidis, Stefanos Patiakas. General Hospital of Kastoria, Microbiological Laboratory and Respiratory Department of General Hospital of Kastoria, Kastoria, Greece

Objective: To study two alternative criteria to differentiate between exudates and transudates: a) pleural fluid cholesterol and b) ratio of pleural fluid cholesterol to serum cholesterol in order to compare their diagnostic value with the widely accepted and used Light’s criteria.

Method: 97 patients with pleural effusion were tested. According to Light’s criteria there were 29 transudative and 68 exudative pleural effusions. Pleural fluid and serum levels of lactate dehydrogenase, protein and cholesterol were measured using colorimetric methods and a biochemical analyzer.

Results: Using a cut-off value for the pleural fluid cholesterol the value of 65.5% (the upper limit to identify a pleural effusion as a transudate) this criterion yielded a sensitivity of 87% and a specificity of 79%. Using the alternative criterion of pleural fluid cholesterol to serum cholesterol ratio (and a cut-off level of 0.4 as the upper limit to identify a transudate) the sensitivity was 87% and the specificity was even greater at 81%.

Conclusions: This study showed that using pleural fluid cholesterol and pleural fluid cholesterol/serum cholesterol ratio may be useful for the differential diagnosis between transudates and exudates, and can provide assistance especially where other criteria are marginal or ambiguous.
A clinical study on broncholithiasis
Hong Lyeol Lee, Hae Sung Nam, Jae Hwa Cho, Jeong Seon Ryu. Department of Internal Medicine, Inha University Hospital, Incheon, Korea

Broncholithiasis is defined as the presence of a calcified fragment of tissue within a bronchus. It almost invariably represents the end-stage of healing of granulomatous diseases such as histoplasmosis or tuberculosis. Broncholiths are found with almost equal frequency in men and women, mostly in the fifth or sixth decade. Common symptoms are chronic cough, hemoptysis and sputum. Lithoptysis, which is pathognomonic, is rare. The chest radiograph mostly shows calcified masses around the bronchi. In most cases, because of no significant symptoms or complications, observation may be the best course but bronchoscopic removal or surgical interventions are indicated in some instances.

From June 1996 to December 2010, 24 patients with broncholithiasis had undergone the analysis for clinical manifestation, bronchoscopic finding, treatment modality and follow-up status. Broncholithiasis was developed in association with tuberculosis in 45.8% and locations corresponded in 54.5%. Lithoptysis occurred in 20.8%. Obstructive pneumonitis was the most common radiographic finding, and calcification was found in 50.0%. Various positive findings, noted in all patients undergoing flexible bronchoscopy, included visible broncholith, granulation tissue or blood clots. In follow-up patients, while all patients with conservative care only continued to have symptoms, an excellent result was evident in 8 of 11 patients in whom broncholith was removed after treatment or spontaneously.

A clinical awareness of the manifestations of broncholithiasis will result in early diagnosis and treatment. If the broncholith can be removed, as indicated, before irreversible distal bronchial and parenchymal damages occur, the long-term outlook for symptomatic relief is excellent.

Cough among hypertensive patients treated with angiotensin convertase inhibitors. Reduction of its frequency by substitution of angiotensin convertase inhibitor with angiotensin receptor blocker. Results of non-interventional, observational postmarketing study
Tadeusz Lietz1, Michal Wronka2, Jerzy Kotzelski3. 1Medical Department, Bayer Schering Pharmaceuticals, Warsaw, Poland; 2Marketing Department, Bayer Schering Pharmaceuticals, Warsaw, Poland; 3Clinics of Lung Disease and Tuberculosis, Silesian Medical University, Zabrze, Poland

Background: A dry, nonproductive cough is a common phenomenon during angiotensin convertase inhibitor (ACE-I) therapy and may result in treatment discontinuation. Patient compliance during antihypertensive therapy is of crucial importance since treatment discontinuation increases risk of cardiovascular events.

Aims and objectives: The aim of this study was to assess tolerability and safety of angiotensin receptor blocker, telmisartan, in hypertensive patients who did not tolerate their previous ACE-I treatment due to cough.

Methods: This was a multi-center, non-controlled, observational study.

Results: A total of 2498 patients were enrolled. At initial visit majority of study subjects reported cough which was ascribed by a physician to previous ACE-I use. Cough intensity was significantly correlated with ACE-I dose. Substitution of ACE-I with telmisartan resulted in marked reduction of the frequency of cough after approx. 3 months of observation. Mean cough frequency at the initial and at the follow-up visit was 74.2% and 2.92%, respectively (p < 0.001). The efficacy of telmisartan in cough elimination was slightly but significantly lower in patients with asthma, bronchitis and with gastric reflux. Gender and smoking (neither present or in history) did not influence the effect of study drug on cough intensity.

Conclusions: In this non-interventional study, telmisartan proved to be generally well tolerated and highly effective in alleviation of dry cough resulting from previous ACE-I therapy.