P3991
Systemic inflammation is enhanced by acute hyperglycaemia and suppressed by insulin in COPD
John Archer, Emma Baker. Centre of Clinical Pharmacology, St George’s University, University of London, London, United Kingdom

Introduction: Over half of COPD patients hospitalised for exacerbations have elevated blood glucose. Acute hyperglycaemia is associated with increased risk of death and prolonged hospital stay [Baker et al Thorax;61:284-9]. We investigated the effect of acute hyperglycaemia and insulin therapy on systemic inflammation.

Methods: 8 stable COPD patients (4male, 66±8yrs, FEV1 44±16%predicted) and 8 volunteers (8male, 24±5yrs, FEV1 89±12%) with fasting glucose <7mM received an octreotide infusion to inhibit pancreatic function. Glucose and insulin were infused for 4 consecutive 60min periods to achieve: Low glucose (fasting), low insulin (0.3mU.kg⁻¹.min⁻¹); high glucose (10mM above fasting levels), low insulin; high glucose, high insulin (1.5mU.kg⁻¹.min⁻¹); low glucose, high insulin. Cytokines were measured in blood sampled at the end of each 60min period using a Bio-Plex system (Bio-Rad).

Results: In COPD, high glucose, low insulin increased IP10 by 48 (12-181)% (median (interquartile range)), TNFa by 28 (8-54)% and IL-12 by 16 (2-34)% from low glucose, low insulin (p<0.05). IP10 increased significantly more in COPD than in volunteers (p=0.009). Subsequently, low glucose, high insulin suppressed IP10, TNFa and IL-12 to starting concentrations (p<0.05). Additionally low glucose, high insulin suppressed IL-1α, IL-1β, IL-16 and IL-4 by 4 to 26% (p<0.05). Suppression of IP10 and TNFa was significantly greater in COPD patients than in volunteers (p=0.038).

Conclusion: Acute hyperglycaemia amplifies systemic inflammation in COPD, which could be detrimental during exacerbations. The anti-inflammatory potential of blood glucose control with insulin for exacerbations requires further investigation.

P3992
Risks of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycaemic adverse events in patients with COPD taking inhaled corticosteroids
Stephen Rennard1, Paul O’Byrne2, Finn Radner3, Stefan Peterson3, Ella Ekholm3, Bengt Lindberg3, Don Sin1. 1Internal Medicine Section of Pulmonary and Critical Care, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, United States; 2Faculty of Health Sciences, Michael G DeGroote School of Medicine, Hamilton, Canada; 3Department of Clinical Sciences, AstraZeneca Research and Development, Lund, Sweden; 4Department of Medicine, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Background: A recent study of patients with lung disease and with prescriptions for inhaled corticosteroids (ICS) detected a 34% increased risk of diabetes mellitus. Methods: A retrospective analysis evaluated the double-blind, controlled, clinical trials in COPD (duration >6 months), involving budesonide (BUD) or BUD/formoterol (8 trials, n=4616 for BUD; n= 3643 for non-ICS). Cox proportional hazards regression modelling, both adjusted and not adjusted by study, was used to estimate the relative effect of ICS on diabetes mellitus/hyperglycaemia adverse events (AEs) or serious adverse events (SAEs).

Results: The occurrence of diabetes mellitus/hyperglycaemia AEs was 1.3% for BUD and 1.2% for non-ICS (HR 0.99 [95% CI 0.67-1.47], p=0.96); the occurrence of diabetes mellitus/hyperglycaemia SAEs was 0.1% for BUD and 0.03% for non-ICS. There was no increased risk with higher doses of BUD. The risk for diabetes mellitus/hyperglycaemia increased with increasing age, BMI and disease severity. Four trials (n=3329 for BUD; n= 2368 for non-ICS) included collection of blood glucose (non-fasting). No significant changes over time were observed for any treatment comparisons.

Conclusion: Treatment with BUD in patients with COPD was not associated with increased risk of diabetes mellitus or hyperglycaemia. Funded by AstraZeneca.
P3993
The relationship between acidic & non acidic gastro esophageal reflux disease (GERD) and asthma
Walid Tarsin1, 2, Isbrah Alshamili1, Ebtisam Alabbas1, Ebtisam Naas2, Mokhtar Souissi1, 3
1Respiratory Department, Tripoli Medical Center, Tripoli, Libya
2 Arab Jamahiriya; 3Pharmacology & Clinical Pharmacy, School of Pharmacy, Elafsha University, Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Asthma is a chronic airway disease characterized by airway constriction, inflammation, and hyper responsiveness to specific and non specific stimuli. GERD is a potential trigger of asthma. The relationship between asthma and GERD has been recognized for many years. Asthma symptoms; cough and chest discomfort may overlap with those of gastro esophageal reflux, making it difficult to distinguish between the two conditions. The study was designed to be for 3 months, with a monthly follow up visit to investigate the relationship between asthma and acidic, non acidic GERD. Patients were divided to three groups; Group 1 (CLSI) which used Omeprazole (G1), Group 2 (CLSI) which used Omeprazole (G2) and Group 3 (CLSI) which used Folinic acid. Symptoms, Lung function (LF), asthma control test (ACT), and the asthma control questionnaires (ACQ) were measured for all patient at every visit. Fifty four asthmatic patients having the symptoms of GERD were enrolled in the study. Their mean (SD) age was 48.6 (12.6) years, 21 Patient started in G1, 21 Patient in the G2 and 12 patients in G3. From the initial results in table 1 it was clear that Omeprazole alone does not show the optimum improvement in the ACT. The results showed that the level of improvement in GERD symptoms was the same in G1&G3. In contrast 100% improvement in LF was seen in G1 while only 38% in G3, which may be due to the effect of the non acidic GERD.

Table 1. Level of improvement of LF, ACQ, ACT and GERD symptoms in visit 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LF</th>
<th>ACQ</th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>GERD</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G1</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G2</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>23%</td>
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<tr>
<td>G3</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In conclusion, CLS can improve the GERD symptoms but it should be combined with the PPI in order to improve the asthma control.

P3994
Effects of pantoprazole on pulmonary function tests of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients, with and without gastro esophageal reflux
Farhad Malek, Raheb Ghorbani, Fatemeh Yahgobi. Internal Medicine,Semantic University of Medical Sciences, Siemens, Islamic Republic of Iran

Introduction: Association between gastro esophageal reflux (GERD) and spirometric finding in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is subject of controversy. The aim of this investigation is to determine the effect of proton pump inhibitor (pantoprazole) on spirometric finding of COPD patient.

Material & method: In this clinical trial, 60 COPD patients were selected and according to questionnaire divide in two groups; with and without GERD (36 and 24 respectively). All patient treated with oral pantoprazole 40 mg daily for eight weeks. Spirometry before and after treatment was done. FEV1/FVC, FEV1, FVC, PEF were measured in both groups.

Result: Mean PEF in COPD patients with GERD before (55.4) and after pantoprazol had significant difference (55.4, 61.5 respectively) (p = 0.009) but mean FEV1/FVC, FEV1, FVC in both groups and PEF in patients without GERD had no significant difference.

Conclusion: This study showed in COPD patient with GERD, treatment with 40mg pantoprazole daily improve PEF but has no effect on other spirometric parameters.

P3995
The relationship between obesity and distal airways
Gregory Marin1, Nicolas Molinari1, Isabelle Vacher1, Philippe Godard1, Pascal Chanez2, Anne-Sophie Gamez1, Arnaud Bourdin1.
1CNRS UMR 6212, AP-HM, Marseille, France, 2Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Dr. P.B. Sharma Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Rohtak, Haryana, India

Introduction: Obesity is a risk factor for asthma-like symptoms. Small airway involvement has been linked to difficulties in controlling asthma. Forced Vital Capacity (FVC) fall at PC20 has been suggested as a potent marker of distal airway abnormalities. Whether obesity is associated with increased distal airway involvement remains unknown.

Hypothesis: We hypothesized that FVC fall at PC20 during a methacholine challenge was increased in overweight and obese patients with asthma-like symptoms.

Methods: 298 consecutive consecutive patients with asthma-like symptoms underwent a methacholine bronchial provocation test according to ATS-guidelines. 298 methacholine and FVC fall at PC20 were computed for all subjects. Bronchial Hyper Responsiveness (BHR) was considered when PC20 was ≤1600 g. PC15 and FVC fall at PC15 were recorded in patients who did not achieve a 20% fall of Forced Expiratory Volume in 1 second (FEV1).

Results: A logistic regression with age, smoking and Body Mass Index showed that only obesity (BMI ≥ 30) increased the risk of BHR with an odds-ratio of 4.2 (95% CI: 1.670–12.295) (p=0.004). BMI had no impact on the relationship between FEV1s and FVC (p=0.290). On the other hand, BMI influenced the percentage fall in FVC at the PC15 only in patients with PC20>1600 g (normal 9.1±3%; overweight 10.4±16% and obese 15.3±32%; p=0.007).

Conclusion: Obesity is a risk factor for BHR in women patients with asthma symptoms. FVC fall at PC20 is not affected by the BMI. Nonetheless, in obese women with asthma symptoms but negative methacholine challenge, we observed a potential involvement of distal airways measured by the FVC.

P3996
Treatment with inhaled corticosteroids (ICS) and long acting b2-agonists (LABA) combination in patients with COPD: Possible way of optimization
Tetyana Pertseva, Kateryna Gashynova. Internal Medicine, DSMa, Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine

Respiratory muscles dysfunction in patients with COPD could affect the inhalation technique and be one of the causes of ICS and bronchodilator’s inefficacy.

Aim of study: To study efficacy of Budesonide/Formoterol combination in dry powder inhaler (Symbicort, Astra Zeneca) in patients with COPD (stage III) with signs of respiratory muscles dysfunction.

Study population and Methods: 20 patients with COPD III (17 men, mean age 58.9±6.3 yrs), who regularly treated by high doses of ICS and bronchodilators no less than three months made the study sample. All patients were current smokers and had signs of respiratory muscles dysfunction (Pimax ≤60 kPa).

At baseline all patient withdrawn from their COP therapy and were prescribed Budesonide/Formoterol combination 3209 mcg BID.

Pulmonary function tests (FEV1, MMLV, Pmax, 6MWD) and plasma C- reactive protein were evaluated before and 12 months after beginning of the study.

Results: Results are present in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>12 months after start of treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEV1 (%) of predicted</td>
<td>47.5±10.4</td>
<td>52.6±12.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMVL (%) of predicted</td>
<td>51.1±7.9</td>
<td>71.6±6.2*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pmax (%) of predicted</td>
<td>39.7±5.6</td>
<td>58.6±7.3*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6MWD, m</td>
<td>273±41.6</td>
<td>359.7±23.4*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-reactive protein, mg/dl</td>
<td>24±1.3</td>
<td>9.9±4.2*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p<0.05

Conclusions: Long-term prescription of Budesonide/Formoterol combination in dry powder inhaler (Symbicort, Astra Zeneca) in COPD patients with signs of respiratory muscles dysfunction significantly increase their MMVL, exercise capacity and reduce respiratory muscles fatigue and systemic inflammation.

P3997
A comparative study to evaluate the effects of salmeterol/fluticasone and formoterol/budesonide combinations on lung functions and sleep quality in asthma
Mahesh Gupta, Dhruva Chaudhry, Pooja Jindal. Pharmacology, Pr.B.D.Sharma Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Rohtak, Haryana, India

Introduction: Asthma is a prevalent chronic inflammatory disorder associated with dyspnoea, deterioration of lung functions and a negative impact on the quality of sleep. Combination treatment with a glucocorticoid and a bronchodilator is the mainstay of treatment.

Aims and objectives: To evaluate the effects of two commonly used combinations salmeterol/fluticasone and formoterol/budesonide on lung functions, dyspnoea and the quality of sleep in patients with moderately severe persistent asthma.

Methods: Sixty patients of moderate severe asthma were allocated to two different treatment groups i.e. salmeterol/fluticasone and formoterol/budesonide in a prospective, open, randomized and comparative study over a period of 6 weeks. The lung functions and Borgs dyspnoea scoring were done at the baseline and at the end of 3 and 6 weeks. Quality of sleep was assessed at the same time intervals by Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI) for quality of sleep and day time sleepiness by Epworth Sleep Scale (ESS).

Results: Salmeterol/fluticasone and formoterol/budesonide, caused a comparable and significant improvement in the lung functions (FEV1, FVC, FEV1/FVC and PFR). The two treatments had a highly significant and comparable improvement in dyspnoea. Quality of sleep as assessed by PSQI and ESS also improved significantly with both the combinations. However the salmeterol/fluticasone was relatively superior in improving quality of sleep.

Conclusions: Both the combinations were equivalent in improving lung functions & dyspnoea but salmeterol/fluticasone combination was superior with respect to sleep quality.

728s

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P3998
ACCORD COPD I: Safety and tolerability of twice daily aclidinium bromide in COPD patients.
Anthony D’Urzo1, Barry Make1, Edward Kerwin3, Ludmila Rekeda4, Esther Garcia Gil1, Cynthia Caracta4, Brian Maurer4, 1Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada; 4: Department of Medicine, National Jewish Medical & Research Center, Denver, United States; 2Medical, Allergy & Asthma Center of Southern Oregon, PC, Medford, United States; 3Biostatistics, Forest Research Institute, Jersey City, United States; 5R&D Centre, Amiralld SA, Barcelona, Spain, 6Clinical Development, Forest Research Institute, Jersey City, United States

Introduction: Aclidinium bromide is a long-acting muscarinic antagonist in development for COPD. Safety and tolerability of aclidinium 200 µg and 400 µg BID in moderate to severe COPD patients were assessed in this Phase III study.

Methods: In this 12-week, double-blind study, COPD patients were randomised to aclidinium 200 µg, 400 µg, or placebo BID (1:1:1). Safety was assessed via adverse events (AEs), clinical laboratory measures, vital signs, and electrocardiograms (ECGs).

Results: Baseline demographics were similar across treatment groups (N=561). The number (%) of patients with a treatment-emergent AE (TEAE) was comparable between aclidinium 400 µg, 200 µg, and placebo [85 (44.7), 93 (50.5), 97 (52.2), respectively]. COPD exacerbation was the most frequently reported TEAE in all groups (12.4% placebo; 9.2%, 200 µg; 7.4%, 400 µg). Incidence of serious AEs was low (2.4%-3.3% for all groups). Incidence of potential anticholinergic AEs (eg, constipation and dry mouth) was low (≤5%) in both aclidinium groups and comparable to placebo. The most frequently reported AEs resulting in discontinuation were COPD exacerbation (n=7, placebo; n=4, 200 µg; n=1, 400 µg) and dyspnea (n=2 each, placebo and 400 µg). One patient in the aclidinium 400 µg group was reported to have metastatic lung cancer but this was not considered to be related to treatment. Changes from baseline in laboratory tests, vital signs, and ECGs, were similar across all groups.

Conclusions: Aclidinium 200 µg and 400 µg BID were safe and well tolerated throughout this 12-week study with a low incidence of systemic anticholinergic adverse events, similar to placebo. There were no differences in safety profiles between the two aclidinium doses.

P3999
Differences in adherence to inhaled steroid medication in COPD
Majroline Brasse-Keizer1, Paul van der Valk1, Job van der Palen1, 1Pulmonary Medicine, Medisch Spectrum Twente, Enschede, Netherlands; 2Research Methodology, Measurement, and Data Analysis, University of Twente, Enschede, Netherlands

Objective: To study whether COPD patients on medication combining an inhaled steroid with a long-acting bronchodilator show better therapy persistence than patients with inhaled steroids alone.

Methods: This study is part of a cohort study with 3 years of follow-up (COMIC study). In total 664 (83%) patients used inhaled steroids and 60.8% showed good adherence if it was 75–125%, sub-optimal between 50-75%, and poor below 50% or above 125%.

Results: In total 664 (83%) patients used inhaled steroids and 60.8% showed good adherence if it was 75–125%, sub-optimal between 50-75%, and poor below 50% or above 125%.

Conclusions: COPD is poorly adherent to inhaled corticosteroid therapy. Furthermore, adherence rates differed significantly between the studied inhaled steroids and the combinations of inhaled steroids and LABA. Contrary to our hypothesis, the adherence did not seem to be higher in the combined medications in comparison to the inhaled steroids alone, and in some cases it was even worse.

P4000
The Dutch hypothesis, implications for treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma in a biomarker, monoclonal antibody world.
Mary Lynn Zimba, Kristin Elliot, Alicia Redd, Syed Ali, Nipun Shah, Shridhar Reddy. St. Clair Pulmonary & Critical Care, 1210 10th Avenue, Port Huron, MI, United States

In 1961, Orie and colleagues from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands hypothesized that the various forms of airway obstruction, such as asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema, should be considered not as separate entities but as different expressions of one disease entity. In a pulmonary practice patients with a physician diagnosis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) had physiological and biochemical evaluation as part of their routine workup. They were treated with oralzumab if they were symptomatic despite adequate conventional treatment and had an elevated IgE level. Patients with COPD were also assessed for treatment with oralzumab for at least 6 months were asked to fill out a questionnaire from which their symptom scores (1=4) and satisfaction scores (1-5) were extracted. There was statistically significant improvement in the amelioration of both symptoms and increase in satisfaction scores (p = less than 0.01) with treatment with oralzumab. This year being the 50th anniversary of the Dutch Hypothesis, it may be appropriate to revisit this issue. Patients with COPD may benefit from evaluation and treatment with monoclonal anti-IgE antibody therapy. Randomized placebo controlled, double blinded trials are needed to help further define the role of anti-IgE therapy in patients with COPD. Subsequently, the broad use of biomarkers to evaluate need for monoclonal antibody therapy may need to be reconsidered. To the treating physician and the patient the treatment outcome is more relevant than the actual diagnosis.

P4001
The effect of L-arginine on ciliary function in primary ciliary dyskinesia (PCD)
Robert Hirst, Naomi Martin, Mina Fadaee-Shohada, Claire Smith, Gwyneth Williams, Andrew Rutman, Chris O’Callaghan. Infection, Immunology and Inflammation, University of Leicester, Leicester, Leicestershire, United Kingdom

The nitric oxide synthase substrate, L-Aarginine (L-Arg), has been shown to stimulate ciliary beat frequency (CBF) in PCD [1]. However it is unclear if this effect was universal to the common phenotypes of PCD or if it could correct the ciliary beat pattern.

Aims: To study the effect of L-Arg on the ciliary function in 3 different phenotypes of PCD.

Methods: Nasal brush biopsies were taken from 15 PCD patients (5 inner arm, 7 outer arm, and 3 transposition defects) and 3 controls. The strips of ciliated epithelium were subjected to medium 199 Control or 5mM L-Arg for 10min at 37°C. The cilia were visualised by a light microscope and recorded at 120 frames per second video. The recordings were analysed in a blinded fashion and were replayed at reduced rate for determination of CBF and cilia tip distance travelled.

Results: L-Arg treatment significantly (p=0.05) increased the CBF (from 5.6±1.3 to 8.3±1.1Hz) and tip distance travelled by the cilia (from 0.35±0.09 to 0.52±1.2cm) in all 15 PCD patients studied. Individual phenotypes of PCD showed a variable response to L-Arg. CBF and tip distance travelled by the inner dynein arm defects were significantly (p=0.05) increased by L-Arg treatment (CBF from 6.3±1.2 to 9.6±1.1Hz; tip distance from 0.44±0.15 to 0.67±0.2cm). The CBF and tip distance of the cilia from the other defects were not statistically different.

Conclusions: L-Arg increased CBF and ciliary tip distance in PCD, an effect that was increased in those with inner dynein arm defects. The mechanism and physiological significance of the changes remain to be determined.


P4002
Formoterol, but not indacaterol, induces transient hypoxemia in severe COPD
Roberto W. Dal Negro, Paola Pescatori, Claudio Micheletto, Silvia Tognella. Respiratory Unit, Orlandi Hospital, Bussolengo, VR, Italy

β₂-agonists are effective options in COPD. Mainly the short-acting compounds can rapidly induce a transient hypoxemia by affecting pulmonary vasculature. Most recent long-acting β₂-agonists (LABA) were poorly investigated from this point of view.

Aim: To measure and compare the hypoxic response of Formoterol (F) and Indacaterol (I) in moderate-to-severe COPD.

Methods: 24 ex-smoker patients (18m, mean age=70.3±3.4yrs; range; 51-76; mean FEV1/FVC = 52.2% pred; ±9.0sd; mean FEV1=50.0±11.8sd) were studied after their written informed consent according to a double-blind, double-dummy, cross-over, randomized design. Active drugs were F (12mcg) and I (300mcg) assessed in two different days, with a 36h-interval in between. Arterial blood was drawn in baseline; after 5’, and 30’ from F and I; FEV1 was measured at the same times.

Statistics: Friedman’s analysis of variance by ranks and Page’s test for trend, and p<0.05 accepted.

Results: See Table 1 (means ± sd).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PaO2 (mmHg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEV1 (% pred)</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
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Discussion: Both F and I induced rapidly an equal (p<0.01) transient hypoxemia in PCD. The trends for PaO2 changes were significantly different with the
two drugs (p<0.04): F induced a sudden, substantial hypoxemia lasting at least for 30 s, changes following I were negligible.

Conclusions: I) the safety of I is emphasized; II) the peculiar chemical structure of I and the fact that it behaves as a nearly full β2-adrenoceptor agonist most likely contribute to explain its ineffectiveness in terms of β2-inhibited hypoxemia in COPD.

P4003

An audit on emergency oxygen administration and safety issues
Rajesh Kumar Yadavalli, Nadeem Anwar, Brian Bradley. Thoracic Medicine, Royal Bolton Hospital, Bolton, Lancashire, United Kingdom

Background: British Thoracic Society (BTS) guidelines on Emergency Oxygen (O2) in 2008 highlighted the importance of safe prescription and administration of O2. We audited our practice focusing on the documentation, prescription and complications in a busy district general hospital in the UK.

Methods: Audit was performed on patients admitted to the medical admission unit over a period of 3 months between Jan 2010 to Mar 2010. Patients who had O2 administration while selected and monitored from admission to discharge. Results: 56 patients in total were studied.

46.6% had assessment for the risk of Co2 retention before O2 started. Only 34.5% had documentation of target O2 saturations. Documentation of Device in 66%, Flow in 71% and Fio2 in 32% of cases. 96.5% of drug charts had no prescription of O2. There is no documentation how long O2 should be given in all the cases. 20 (35.6%) patients had inappropriate administration of O2; No need for O2-10, More O2 than needed-9 and Less O2 than needed-1. 3 patients developed Type 2 respiratory failure and needed Non-invasive ventilation. There were no mortalities.

Conclusions: We identified safety issues whilst administering Emergency O2 and need to improve in our documentation, prescription on drug charts and administration. Patients at risk of Co2 retention would have arterial blood samples after starting O2. Drug charts were modified adding oxygen in 2 areas: Regular and PRN sections and also include device, flow, Fio2, target saturations and how long to give O2. Flow charts on how to administer and adjust O2 were placed in all the wards including medical admission units.

Repeated mandatory educational training on O2 administration to all medical, nursing and allied health care professionals were started.

P4004

No difference observed in the risk of malignancy in patients exposed to omalizumab compared with controls
Roland Buhi, George H. Doughty, Max Kostenko, Gary Norman, Anna Paton. University of Western Ontario, London, Canada

Background: The role of omalizumab for the treatment of severe allergic asthma is well established. However there is limited information about the risk of malignancy in omalizumab treated patients compared to controls.

Methods: The data from 320 patients (57 in the omalizumab treated group and 263 matched controls) was used to calculate the risk of malignancy. The data was collected from patients treated with omalizumab at least for 1 year.

Results: A total of 22 malignancies were identified in the omalizumab treated and 12 in the control group. The malignancies were mainly lung and breast cancers. There was no statistically significant difference in the risk of malignancy in the omalizumab treated group compared to the control group.

Conclusions: No difference was observed in the risk of malignancy in patients exposed to omalizumab compared with controls.

P4005

The ATTAIN study: Safety and tolerability of aclidinium bromide in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
Eric D. Bateman1, David Singh2, Paul W. Jones3, Alvar Agusti4, Rosa Lamarca5, Gonzalo de Maqelq5, Cynthia Caracta5, Esther Garcia Gill5. 1Division of Pulmonology, Department of Medicine, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa; 2Medicines Evaluation Unit, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom; 3St George’s, University of London, London, United Kingdom; 4Thorax Institute, Hospital Clinic and CIBER Enmedidas Respiratorias and Pulmonologia Coauet-Camerca, Barcelona, Spain; 5R&D Centre, Almirall, Barcelona, Spain; 6Clinical Development, Forest Research Institute, NJ, United States

Introduction: Aclidinium bromide is a long-acting muscarinic anticholinergic in clinic development for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Aims: To assess the safety and tolerability of aclidinium 200 μg and 400 μg twice-daily (BID) in patients with COPD.

Methods: This 24-week, double-blind, Phase III study (NCT0101494) ran randomised patients to receive aclidinium 200 μg, 400 μg or placebo BID (1:1:1). Adverse events (AEs), clinical laboratory measures, vital signs and electrocardiograms (ECGs) were assessed.

Results: Baseline demographics were similar across all groups (safety population, N=8419). The incidence of treatment-emergent AEs (TEAEs) was similar for placebo, aclidinium 200 μg and 400 μg (37.1%, 54.5%, 53.3%, respectively). COPD exacerbation was the most frequently reported TEAE in all groups (placebo, 20.5%; 200 μg, 15.9%; 400 μg, 14.1%). TEAEs reported by ≥2% of patients and with a higher incidence in the aclidinium groups were: headache, nasopharyngitis, dizziness, cough and toothache. The incidence of TEAEs leading to discontinuation was similar across the groups (3%-4%); COPD exacerbation was the most frequent reason (placebo, n=5; 200 μg, n=3; 400 μg, n=4). The incidence of anticholinergic variable AEs (>2.5% for each group) and of general serious AEs (4.3-5.5%; all groups) was low in all treatment arms. Changes in laboratory tests, vital signs and ECGs were similar between groups.

Conclusions: Aclidinium 200 μg and 400 μg were well tolerated with an incidence of AEs similar to placebo. There were no differences in the safety profiles between the aclidinium dosages.

This study was supported by Almirall S.A., Barcelona, Spain, and Forest Laboratories, Inc, New York, USA.

P4006

Clinical efficacy of once-daily mometasone furoate in children with persistent asthma switched from treatment with fluticasone propionate
Steven F. Weinstein1, Michael Noonan 2, William E. Berger3, Heribert Staedtler4,5. 1Private Practice, Allergy & Asthma Specialists Medical Group, Huntington Beach, CA, United States; 2Private Practice, Allergy Associates Research Center, LLC, Portland, OR, United States; 3Private Practice, Allergy & Asthma Associates of Southern California, Mission Viejo, CA, United States; 4Merck Research Laboratories, Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., Kenilworth, NJ, United States

Background: Mometasone furoate (MF) delivered via dry powder inhaler is an inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) for the treatment of persistent asthma in children ≥4 years. MF 110 μg once daily in the evening (QD PM; approved pediatric dose) and MF 110 μg twice daily (BID) were compared with placebo (PBO) in children aged 4–11 years with persistent asthma previously treated with other ICSs at stable doses for ≥2 weeks before randomization. The primary efficacy variable was change from baseline in % predicted forced expiratory volume in 1 s (FEV1) at endpoint; primary results for 296 randomized children were published previously.

Objective: Investigate the possible relationship between the primary endpoint and previous ICS use.

Methods: Two post hoc analyses were conducted: one to determine whether children previously using different ICSs responded differently to MF; another to compare the effects of MF vs PBO in the subgroup of children previously using fluticasone propionate (FP).

Results: In post hoc analysis, no significant difference was found in the response to MF in 296 children previously using different ICSs (P=0.6372). Most children (160/54%) previously used FP 88–440 μg/d (median, 176 μg/d). Post hoc analysis of treatment effects in the FP subgroup determined that changes in % predicted FEV1, with MF 110 μg QD PM, MF 110 μg BID, and PBO were 6.4%, 4.5%, and -4.2%, respectively. The difference between both doses of MF and PBO was significant (P<0.004).

Conclusions: Previous ICS use did not affect the efficacy of MF in children, and MF 110 μg QD PM significantly improved lung function compared with PBO in children switched from FP.

P4007

Fluticasone propionate/formoterol fumarate combination therapy has comparable efficacy to its individual components administered concurrently
Anna Bzdzena-Lukaszyk1, Jan A. van Noord2, Winfried G. Schröder-Babo3, Kirsten McAulay4, Tammy McVeer5. 1Department of Allergy and Immunology, Medical University of Białystok, Białystok, Poland; 2Department of Respiratory Diseases, Atrium Medisch Centrum, Heerlen, Netherlands; 3Pneumology, Private Practice, Gelnhausen, Germany; 4European Medical
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Body mass index, disease control and airway inflammation in asthmatic patients

Robertta Pisi, Marina Aiello, Panagiotis Trani, Emilio Marangio, Dario Olivieri, Alfredo Chetta. Cardiopulmonary Department, Respiratory Disease Unit, University Hospital of Parma, Parma, Italy

Background: The association between overweight and asthma remains controversial.

Aim: To investigate the relationship between body mass index (BMI), disease control and airway inflammation in an asthmatic population.

Methods: We consecutively studied 408 patients (43±16yr; 248 F). In all patients, BMI, spirometry, Asthma Control Test (ACT) and Fractional Exhaled Nitric Oxide (FeNO) values were measured.

Results: 205 patients had a BMI > 25 kg/m² and, as compared to those with normal BMI, had lower values of FVC, FEV₁, FEV₁/FVC, FEF₂₅, FEF₂₀₀ and FEF₇₅ (p<0.05 for each comparison). The ratio between the number of patients with well controlled asthma (ACT ≥ 20) and that of patients with poor controlled asthma (ACT < 20) was significantly lower in patients with increased BMI (1.66±0.9 vs 1.17±0.66). In patients with increased BMI, the odds ratio of uncontrolled asthma was 1.723 (95% CI = 1.157-2.566).

Conclusions: The results show that in an asthmatic population, the increase in BMI is associated with poor spirometry and worse disease control, but not with FeNO values.

P4009

How does obesity correlate with severe asthma?

Michael Gibeon, Winston Banya, Hofmann Markus, Regan Suzanne, Pankaj Bhavsar, Kian Fan Chung, Andrew Menzies-Gow, Hofmann Markus, Regan Suzanne, Pankaj Bhavsar, Kian Fan Chung, Andrew Menzies-Gow. National Health & Lung Institute, Royal Brompton Hospital, London, United Kingdom

Introduction: 10% of asthmatics have refractory disease. Cluster analysis has identified that BMI is a factor in defining phenotypes of severe asthma [1]. Obesity antedates asthma diagnosis [2], suggesting that obesity has a pathophysiological role.

Last year we reported the outcome of 115 patients with severe, well-controlled treatment refractory asthma (ATS, 2000). This study looks at data from 374 patients from 4 UK centres, collected as part of the National Registry for dedicated UK Difficult Asthma Services.

Methods: Patients were divided into three groups by BMI: 18.5 to 24.99, 25 to 29.99 (overweight), and ≥30 (obese).

Results: The table below highlights demographic data, lung function, steroid use and bone density between groups.

Conclusion: Severe asthmatics are more likely to be female although this does not appear to correlate to BMI. Raised BMI is associated with more GORD, greater use of PPI's, increased KCO, but a reduction in aspirin sensitivity, and appears to be protective against osteoporosis at the neck of femur.

References:

P4010

Effects on adrenal function of a new combination of fluticasone propionate/formoterol fumarate administered to asthmatic patients and healthy subjects

Michael Tamm, Kirsten Kaiser, Brigit Grothe, Mark Lomax, Department of Pneumology, University Hospital, Basel, Switzerland; 2Clinical and Regulatory Development, SkyePharma AG, Muotnens, Switzerland; 3European Medical Science, Mundipharma Research Ltd., Cambridge, United Kingdom

Background: Corticosteroid treatment is known to affect adrenal function via suppression of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis. This effect was assessed for a new asthma therapy combining the corticosteroid fluticasone (FLUT) with formoterol (FORM) in a single aerosol inhaler (FLUT/FORM).

Methods: Healthy subjects and patients with mild to severe asthma were treated for 4 to 12 weeks with FLUT/FORM (100/10 µg, 250/10 µg, 500/20 µg) in a randomised, parallel-group studies comparing FLUT/FORM with FLUT, FLUT/FORM from separate inhalers, or placebo. The endpoints were changes in urinary and serum cortisol levels from baseline to end of study.

Results: No significant differences were observed in mean urinary cortisol levels with FLUT/FORM 100/10 µg (N=38; mean 21.1±g/24h; p=0.733) or FLUT/FORM 250/10 µg (N=49; mean 24.0±g/24h; p=0.510) compared with placebo (N=39; mean 21.5±g/24h). In a study using FLUT/FORM 100/10 µg or 250/10 µg, patients had similar mean urinary cortisol levels at baseline and end of study (N=27; 5.1 vs 6.0nmol/L). The corresponding mean serum cortisol levels were 372.9 ± 416.2nmol/L (N=104). Healthy subjects given FLUT/FORM 500/20 µg had a decrease in both urinary and serum cortisol levels at end of study but this was less than with FLUT 500/20 µg+FORM 24µg (urinary: N=24; 13 to 17±mol/L vs 24 to 44µmol/L; serum: N=24; 399 to 272±mol/L vs 430 to 154±mol/L).

Conclusions: Fluticasone/formoterol 100/10 µg or 250/10 µg showed no significant changes in urinary or serum cortisol levels. Fluticasone/formoterol 500/20 µg had some effect on adrenal function but less than FLUT+FORM given at the same nominal dose.