NOVOLIZER® BUDESONIDE ▼

Corticosteroids for the treatment of chronic asthma in adults and children aged 12 years and over

A Health Technology Appraisal for the
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

26 July 2006

Meda Pharmaceuticals Ltd

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Novolizer® device provides almost all of the characteristics sought in an ideal inhaler. It is actuated at an achievable inspiratory flow rate (IFR) threshold and has multiple feedback mechanisms confirming correct dosing. This device has been developed to administer a number of drugs for the treatment of asthma, including budesonide (Novolizer Budesonide). The device therefore ensures that the essential requirements for deposition of budesonide in the lungs are properly met. The Novolizer has one of the highest lung deposition values obtained for dry powder inhalers (DPIs). Evaluation of the Novolizer in randomised, controlled trials showed therapeutic equivalence to established treatments for asthma.

The Novolizer has an accurate and robust dosage counter, and feedback mechanisms linked to correct inhalation technique. The low intrinsic airflow resistance of the Novolizer means that sufficient inhalation to activate the device is easy to achieve; it is therefore suitable for patients with low IFRs, such as the elderly, patients with severe lung disease and children. The combination of all of these factors is likely to improve patient compliance.

The Novolizer shows an excellent metered versus delivered dose ratio, releases a consistent fine dry powder appropriate for good drug deposition in the lung, is functionally reliable and hygienic in real-life situations, does not contain propellants (meeting the requirements of the Montreal Protocol), and is cost-effective by virtue of its reusability, replaceable powder cartridges and competitive price. Changing existing budesonide patients to the Novolizer could save the English NHS up to £3.7 million per year. The Novolizer is an innovative device that combines simplicity of use with effective performance.