

Comments

“Corticosteroids for the treatment of Chronic Asthma in adults and children over the age of 12”

The document has 5 specific questions to be answered. However, none of them addresses the clinical and cost effectiveness of BDP + LABA separately vs combination inhalers (Seretide and Symbicort). Since many patients will be on BDP at step 2, once they reach Step 3, is it more cost-effective to put them on a separate LABA with BDP or to switch to a combination inhaler (thereby adding a LABA and switching the steroid)? Although, given the concern that clinicians may now have about prescribing LABA and ICS separately, this may be irrelevant.

xxii: “However, it should be noted that whilst the use of weighted averages averages to calculate these costs...”

Repetition of the word “averages”

P18: “*Dysphonia* is reasonably common in individuals using ICS.⁶⁶ Although the exact mechanism of dysphonia is unknown, it is thought to be related to vocal cord Inflammation”.

There is some evidence that it is due to steroid induced myopathy of the adductor muscles of the vocal cords in some patients

P20: Twentyeight of the cases were identified in children and five in adults. Of these 33 patients who had received ICS in the range of 500-2000µg per day, 30 (1%) had received FP, one (3%) FP and BUD, and two (6%) BDP.

I think that the underlined percentage should be 91 not 1.

P 35: re: figure 6.

On page 29-30 of the report, a study by Gupta and colleagues is discussed, which suggests that compared to children, adults (aged 15 and over) contribute proportionately less to both the primary care and secondary care NHS costs This data also suggests that amongst adults there is one hospital admission for asthma for every 13 to 15 GP consultations (for asthma), whereas amongst children there is an asthma-related hospital admission for every eight GP consultations.

However the table shown on page 35 from the study by Hoskins et al., did not appear to show a significantly different number of hospital admissions by the under15 age group compared to adults.

P184: “Bousquet and colleagues¹⁹⁷ reported relief use of salbuterol as change from baseline dose”

Should this be salbutamol or albuterol?

P362: The model uses transition probabilities derived from individual level patient data from a UK clinical trial of a 12-week duration that compared BUD/formoteraol FD with BUD/formoaterol AMD.

Formoterol mis-spelt twice in this sentence.