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DETERMINANTS AND CONSEQUENCES OF ASTHMA IN ADULTS: EVOLUTION AND TREATMENT
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Fluticasone Propionate/Salmeterol in a Single Inhaler Improves Refill Persistence Compared to Fluticasone Propionate and Salmeterol from Two Separate Inhalers

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Rationale Compares refill rates of fluticasone propionate (FP) and salmeterol (SL) from separate inhalers to fluticasone propionate/salmeterol (FSC) as a single inhaler in patients who received both at different time periods.

Method: This is a retrospective 18-month pre-post study. Patients were selected from an administrative prescription database that contains claims for over 75 million people across the United States. Patients were identified who had > 1 prescription claim for FSC (50/100, 50/250, 50/500) during July 2001, prescription claims for FP (44, 110, 220) and SL in the prior 6 months (January 2001 to June 2001) and enrolled for 18 months around the initial FSC prescription. Refill numbers were determined 6 months before and 12 months after the initial FSC prescription. Pre-period refills were projected to 12 months, based upon the observed utilization rate. The same 6 month observation period (Jan-June) one year apart were compared for FP + SL and FSC for the same patient to take into account seasonal differences

Results: 2610 patients who received >1 FSC prescription in July 2001. In the 12-month follow-up, patients received on average 6.93 refills for FSC. These same patients received on average 4.44 refills respectively for FP and 4.48 refills SL in previous 12 months. During Jan-June there were 3.46 refills of FSC compared to 2.25 of FP and 2.34 of SL.

Conclusion Patients who received FSC from a single device had approximately a 50% increase in refills over 12 months and during a similar 6 month period compared to FP and SL from separate inhalers. This increased compliance may result in improved asthma outcomes for patients.

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