

Asthma Living Guideline Search Narrative - Inhaler Devices

January 2004

Systematic reviews from the 2003 update searches which had not been evaluated were also sent to the group.

Searches were carried out on the revised key questions. (Revised in 2003)

1. Which inhaler device is the most effective for the delivery of beta-agonists in children with asthma (under 5 and 5-12 yrs)?
2. Which inhaler device is the most effective for the delivery of cortico-steroids in children (<5 and 5-12 yrs)?
3. How is inhaler technique best assessed?
4. How frequently should this inhaler technique assessment be performed?
5. What role does patient preference play in deciding which inhaler to prescribe?
6. Does this improve compliance?
7. Does this improve effectiveness of treatment?
8. With the imminent withdrawal of CFC propelled MDIs, which inhaler devices are the most effective for the delivery of :
 - a) beta-agonists?
 - b) cortico-steroids in adults (over 12 yrs)?

Searches were carried out in Medline, Embase and the Cochrane Library CD Issue 4 2003. Searches were carried out from 1998-2004. Searches were combined with the RCT filters.

Main strategy

Database: Ovid MEDLINE(R) < 1996 to January Week 1 2004 >

Search Strategy:

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1      exp ASTHMA/ (22289)  
2      asthma$.tw. (25663)  
3      1 or 2 (28758)  
4      exp "Nebulizers and Vaporizers"/ (2512)  
5      inhalation device$.tw. (97)  
6      (nebuliser$ or nebulizer$ or vaporiser$ or vaporizer$ or atomiser$ or  
atomizer$ or inhaler$ or inhalator$ or aerosol$).tw. (7275)  
7      (meter$ adj5 dose adj5 inhal$).tw. (969)  
8      mdi$.tw. (769)  
9      (spacer$ adj3 (inhal$ or tube$)).tw. (263)  
10     sp inhaler$.tw. (12)  
11     or/3-10 (34898)  
12     2 and 11 (25663)  
13     limit 12 to yr=1998-2004 (20139)  
Set 13 Combined with RCT strategy.
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Database: EMBASE < 1996 to 2004 Week 02 >

Search Strategy:

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1      exp ASTHMA/ (30222)  
2      asthma$.tw. (26531)
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3 1 or 2 (33786)
 4 inhalation device\$.tw. (135)
 5 exp NEBULIZER/ (1428)
 6 exp INHALER/ (2530)
 7 inhalation device\$.tw. (135)
 8 (nebuliser\$ or nebulizer\$ or vaporiser\$ or vaporizer\$ or atomiser\$ or
 atomizer\$ or inhaler\$ or inhalator\$ or aerosol\$).tw. (10632)
 9 (meter\$ adj5 dose adj5 inhal\$).tw. (1131)
 10 mdi\$.tw. (870)
 11 (spacer\$ adj3 (inhal\$ or tube\$)).tw. (303)
 12 spinhaler\$.tw. (28)
 13 or/4-12 (12393)
 14 3 and 13 (3022)
 15 limit 14 to yr=1998-2004 (2374)
 Set 15 Combined with RCT strategy.

The Medline strategy was used as a basis for the strategy for the Cochrane database.

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