

■ **The administration of dexpanthenol prior to endotracheal intubation effectively prevents postoperative sore throat (POST),** according to researchers from Turkey. In their study, 180 patients scheduled for elective surgery were randomised to receive four puffs of oral benzydamine spray (n = 60), two oral pastilles of dexpanthenol to be sucked (60) or four puffs of distilled water, 30 minutes prior to the operation; the benzydamine-treated patients received a repeat dose 5 minutes prior to induction of anaesthesia. The incidence of POST at time points between 10 minutes and 6 hours after surgery was significantly lower with dexpanthenol (range 25%–36.6%) than with benzydamine (38%–61.6%) or distilled water (48%–66.6%). At 12 and 24 hours after surgery, the incidence of POST was significantly higher with placebo than with dexpanthenol or benzydamine.

Gulhas N, et al. Dexpanthenol pastille and benzydamine hydrochloride spray for the prevention of post-operative sore throat. *Acta Anaesthesiologica Scandinavica* 51: 239-243, No. 2, Feb 2007 801062447