

Concomitant fenspiride worthwhile in chronic bronchitis

Concomitant treatment of chronic bronchitis with fenspiride is a worthwhile option in patients who experience acute exacerbations of chronic bronchitis (AECB) in Poland, according to the results of a poster presentation at the 8th Annual European Congress of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR), held in Florence, Italy.

Based on the results of a randomised controlled trial, researchers evaluated the outcomes and costs associated with fenspiride 80mg or placebo administered twice daily to 183 patients over a 6-month period.*

Fenspiride recipients reported fewer AECB episodes of shorter duration than placebo recipients over the study period (0.56 vs 1 episodes and 3.21 vs 6.54 days). Over a 6-month period, 2.27 patients would need to be treated to avoid one AECB episode. Among patients who experienced exacerbations, substantially more patients treated with placebo experienced more than one AECB episode, compared with fenspiride (60.5% vs 32%); the number needed to treat to avoid one AECB episode in this subgroup was 1.85. Per-patient costs over the 6-month period were about €378 and €404 in the fenspiride and placebo groups, respectively, of which indirect costs accounted for the largest portion of total costs in each group (61% and 82%, respectively). Fenspiride therapy would cost almost €20 per AECB episode avoided, compared with placebo, provided only direct costs were taken into account, although fenspiride was cost saving when both direct and indirect costs were calculated.

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