

Fenoterol/Ipratropium Bromide Bronchodilates Better

Than salbutamol in this small study of stable asthmatics

In a double-blind crossover study, ten patients with reversible stable asthma were randomised to single doses of salbutamol [albuterol] 200mg, placebo and a combination of ipratropium bromide 80µg and fenoterol 200µg via metered-dose inhalers on 3 consecutive days using a double dummy technique.

Compared with placebo, combination treatment improved FEV₁ and PEF_R at all times measured, with significant differences in FEV₁ values occurring at 15-240 min after treatment. Salbutamol produced significantly higher FEV₁ values, compared with placebo, at 30-120 min post-treatment. Compared with salbutamol, combination treatment produced greater FEV₁ and PEF_R values at all times after treatment, with significant differences occurring at 120, 180, 210 and 240 min, and 90, 120, 150 and 210 min, after treatment, respectively. There was no significant difference between groups regarding the forced vital capacity produced.

This study shows a '**... significant additional benefit in relief of airflow obstruction for a combined fenoterol/ipratropium preparation compared with salbutamol**'.

Crane J, Gamble S. New Zealand Medical Journal 99: 420-421, 11 Jun 1986