Tiotropium: a potential replacement for ipratropium in patients with COPD

Shukla V K

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Authors' objectives
To summarise the available evidence on tiotropium as a potential replacement for ipratropium in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Authors' conclusions
- Inhaled tiotropium provides a sustained bronchodilator effect over a 24-hour period in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).
- There is some evidence that tiotropium 18g once daily is more efficacious than ipratropium bromide 40 g four times daily, for patients with COPD, as measured by improvements in lung function, dyspnea disease-specific quality of life and reductions in hospitalization due to COPD.
- Dry mouth is a more frequent problem with tiotropium than with ipratropium bromide.

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Address for correspondence
600-865 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1S 5S8 Canada. Tel: +1 613 226 2553; Fax: +1 613 226 5392; Email: jills@ccohta.ca

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