**Tiotropium: a potential replacement for ipratropium in patients with COPD**

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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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