Tiotropium: a potential replacement for ipratropium in patients with COPD

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Record Status
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Citation
Shukla V K. Tiotropium: a potential replacement for ipratropium in patients with COPD. Ottawa: Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment (CCOHTA) 2002: 4

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.

Project page URL
https://www.ccohta.ca/

Indexing Status
Subject indexing assigned by CRD

MeSH
Bronchodilator Agents; Scopolamine Derivatives

Language Published
English, French

Country of organisation
Canada

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AccessionNumber
32002000474

Date bibliographic record published
16/08/2002
Date abstract record published
16/08/2002