

FIXED COMBINATION OF EXTRAFINE BECLOMETHASONE DIPROPIONATE AND FORMOTEROL — NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR BETTER ASTHMA CONTROL

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Abstract

Despite the great work done in recent years on the dissemination and implementation of asthma recommendations, the level of control of the disease in the world and in Europe remains unsatisfactory in a significant percentage of patients.

Factors associated with the treatment failure in patients with obstructive lung diseases are not only the low adherence to the prescribed drug therapy, incorrect use of the device (poor inhalation technique), insufficient communication between the physician and the patient, inadequate drug treatment. There are other factors associated with the disease: asthma and COPD are inflammatory disorders of the entire bronchial tree, including the peripheral airways. Their involvement may remain functionally and clinically silent until signs of air trapping and hyperinflation become apparent, resulting in a lack of symptom control despite conventional treatment.

Inflammatory and functional changes in the small airways (<2 mm in diameter) contribute significantly to the pathogenesis of asthma in terms of bronchoconstriction and hyperreactivity. Today, the awareness of their role in the development of asthma is increasing and they are considered as a potential target for therapy aimed at achieving and maintaining optimal disease control.

The determination of the role of the distal parts of the respiratory tract predicted the need for the development of a new generation inhalers that could generate aerosols with extra-fine particles of drugs for more effective penetration of the aerosol to the periphery of the lungs. The recent appearance of inhaled extra-fine particles inhaled drugs allows for a more uniform distribution of the active substance throughout the respiratory tract, including the peripheral airways. These drugs are more effective and require a lower nominal dose to achieve the same effect on lung function and symptoms compared to equipotent doses of non-extra-fine aerosols.

Extra-fine fixed combination of beclomethasone dipropionate and formoterol 100/6 mcg (FOSTER) was the first registered metered dose inhaler for the MART regimen in asthma.

Key words: asthma, distal airways, inhalers, asthma control, exacerbation.

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