TITLE: Multi-Dose Inhalers and Aerosol Nebulizers for Delivery of Salbutamol: Clinical Benefits and Harms and Guidelines for Use

DATE: 19 February 2009

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. What are the clinical benefits and harms associated with use of multi-dose inhalers and aerosol nebulizers for the delivery of salbutamol?

2. What are the guidelines associated with use of multi-dose inhalers and aerosol nebulizers for the delivery of salbutamol?

METHODS:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 4, 2008), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international HTA agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results include articles published between 2004 and February 2009 and are limited to English language publications only. Filters were applied to limit the retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials (comparative studies), and guidelines. Internet links are provided, where available.

RESULTS:

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials (RCTs), and evidence-based guidelines.

Four RCTs and one evidence-based guideline were identified pertaining to the clinical benefits and harms associated with use of multi-dose inhalers and aerosol nebulizers for the delivery of salbutamol. No relevant health technology assessments or systematic reviews were identified. Additional information that may be of interest has been included in the appendix.

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Health technology assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses
No literature identified.

Randomized controlled trials


Guidelines and recommendations


See section 6: Treatments, Bronchodilators

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Observational studies


Additional references