

achieve a good coverage of screening for thalassaemic carrier state.

Free Paper Session 8 – Pharmacology

OP054

Effectiveness of salbutamol tablets versus salbutamol aerosol inhaler with spacer in the treatment of acute asthma exacerbation in children: a pragmatic randomized controlled trial

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Introduction

In many developing countries salbutamol tablets are widely used as symptom relievers in childhood asthma. It is no longer listed in WHO Model Essential Medicines List.

Objectives

Aim of this study was to compare effectiveness of salbutamol tablets with salbutamol aerosol inhaler plus spacer as symptom relievers in mild-moderate acute asthma exacerbation in 5-12 year old children.

Method

Balanced randomized single blind two arm parallel group pragmatic clinical trial. Children aged 5-12 years clinically diagnosed with mild-moderate acute asthma exacerbation were randomly assigned to age appropriate doses of salbutamol tablets or aerosol inhaler plus spacer. Primary outcome showed that proportion of children completely recovered in ≤ 3 days. Severity of asthma was measured using Pulmonary Index. Secondary outcomes were mean doses given, duration for complete recovery, side-effects, fast return to school, and recurrence.

Results

Forty-one were assigned to tablets and 44 to inhaler groups. No significant difference observed in mean age, gender and severity ($p > 0.05$) between groups. Thirty-five (85.4%) in tablet s group and 40 (91%) in inhaler plus spacer group completely recovered in ≤ 3 days ($p = 0.14$). Both groups were similar for mean doses given [6.51 ± 1.9 vs. 6.25 ± 1.9 ($p = 0.72$)], mean duration for complete recovery [2.4 ± 0.55 vs. 2.28 ± 0.55 ($p = 0.83$)], fast return to school [91.4% vs. 97.5% ($p = 0.24$)] and recurrence [17.1% vs. 10 ($p = 0.36$)]. Neither groups had notable side-effects.

Conclusions

Effectiveness measured by clinically useful outcomes showed that as a symptom reliever salbutamol tablets are as effective as aerosol inhaler plus spacer in treating mild-moderate acute asthma exacerbation in 5-12 year olds.

OP055

Accuracy and availability of key information in package inserts of medicines used in Sri Lanka

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Introduction

Package inserts (PIs) provide information about medicines to health professionals. Incomplete or inaccurate information may lead to medication errors.

Objectives

Aim of the study was to assess the accuracy and availability of key information in PIs of medicines used in Sri Lanka.