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Title: Bronchodilation with mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate administered by metered-dose inhaler with and without a spacer in children with persistent asthma

William 318 Berger weberger@uci.edu MD ¹, George 319 Bensch Docbensch4@aol.com MD ², Steven 320 Weinstein sfw@ocallergy.com MD ³, David 321 Skoner DSKONER@wpahs.org MD ⁴, Bruce 322 Prenner prenner@aaamg.com MD ⁵, Tulin 323 Shekar tulin.shekar@merck.com ⁶, Davis 324 Gates davis.gates@merck.com ⁶, Hendrik 325 Nolte hendrik.nolte@merck.com MD ⁶ and Ariel 326 Teper ariel.teper@merck.com MD ⁶. ¹ Clinical, Allergy & Asthma Associates of Southern California, Mission Viejo, CA, United States; ² Clinical, Bensch Research Associates, Stockton, CA, United States; ³ Clinical, Allergy & Asthma Specialists Medical Group, Huntington Beach, CA, United States; ⁴ Clinical, Allegheny-Singer Research Institute, Pittsburgh, PA, United States; ⁵ Clinical, Allergy Associates Medical Group, Inc., San Diego, CA, United States and ⁶ Merck Research Laboratories, Merck & Co., Inc., Whitehouse Station, United States.

Body: Rationale: The bronchodilatory effect of mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate (MF/F) administered by metered-dose inhaler (MDI) with or without spacer has not been evaluated previously in children. Methods: This was a randomized, multicenter, placebo (PBO)-controlled, single-dose 4-period crossover study. Children with persistent asthma aged 5-11y participated in this study. Subjects used inhaled corticosteroids with/without long-acting beta-2 agonists for ≥12wk before enrollment, and at screening had FEV₁ ≥70% predicted. Subjects received MF/F-MDI 100/10µg with/without spacer, F-DPI 10µg, and PBO-MDI with/without spacer in separate treatment periods. The primary endpoint was FEV₁ AUC (0-12 h) for the comparison of MF/F with spacer vs PBO. Secondary measurements included MF/F without spacer vs PBO, as well as MF/F with spacer vs MF/F without spacer, and F-DPI vs PBO. Analysis was performed with an ANCOVA model for a crossover study. Results: Data from 87 subjects were analyzed. MF/F with spacer demonstrated a larger change in mean FEV₁ AUC (0-12h) vs PBO (115 vs –9mL), with a treatment difference of 124mL (95% CI 94 to 154, P<.001). Similarly, MF/F without spacer vs PBO resulted in a 102mL difference in mean adjusted FEV₁ AUC₀₋₁₂h (95% CI 73 to 131, P<.001), whereas the difference between MF/F with spacer vs MF/F without spacer was 22 mL (95% CI –8 to 52, P=.144). The difference between F-DPI vs PBO was 106 mL (95% CI 77 to 135, P<.001). No unexpected adverse events were observed. Conclusions: In this trial, MF/F-MDI 100/10µg demonstrated significant bronchodilation in children aged 5-11y regardless of the use of a spacer.