

European Respiratory Society Annual Congress 2013

Abstract Number: 2943

Publication Number: P701

Abstract Group: 5.1. Airway Pharmacology and Treatment

Keyword 1: Asthma - management **Keyword 2:** Education **Keyword 3:** Primary care

Title: Ease of use of a two-strip dry powder inhaler (DPI) to deliver fluticasone furoate/vilanterol (FF/VI) and FF alone in asthma

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Body: Introduction: Patients with asthma who experience difficulty in inhaler use are less likely to adhere to prescribed medications. Poor adherence is associated with suboptimal control and increased disease burden. A two-strip DPI enabling simultaneous delivery of two compounds without co-formulation was used to deliver the ICS/LABA combination FF/VI or FF alone to asthma patients in phase 3 studies. Rationale: To assess the correctness and ease of use of the DPI by patients aged ≥ 12 years with persistent asthma. Methods: Patient use of the DPI was observed in three 12–24 week randomised, double-blind studies of FF/VI (HZA106827) or FF alone (FFA114496;FFA115283). Correct device use was demonstrated by the investigator at randomisation; patient use was subsequently assessed. At Week 4, a DPI ease of use questionnaire was administered. Inhaler use assessment and ease of use were both 'Other' study endpoints. Results: Pooled data from active and placebo arms per study are reported (Table).

Conclusions: The vast majority of participants considered the DPI to be easy/very easy to use, with a clearly readable dose counter. Almost all patients used the inhaler correctly following a single demonstration and correct use was maintained. Due to its ease of use, the DPI has the potential to reduce inhaler-related handling errors and improve adherence. Funded by GSK (NCT01165138;NCT01431950;NCT01436071).