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Title: Assessing asthmatic patients' satisfaction with inhalation devices

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Body: INTRODUCTION: Patients' satisfaction with their asthma medication devices is usually decided by using properly designed questionnaires. These questionnaires are to be used to evaluate patients' opinion, which is considered important for the selection of a device. OBJECTIVES: The aim of this study was to reliably estimate the ease of use and the satisfaction of asthmatic patients with different marketed dry powder inhalers (DPIs). Feeling of satisfaction with inhalers (FSI-10) questionnaire was selected as the appropriate measuring tool. METHODS: A four week, open, non-interventional, multicenter, parallel study, was performed. 560 asthmatic patients (355 women), aged 19 to 97 years, participated in three groups using different DPIs (Elpenhaler®, Turbuhaler® and Diskus®). Demographics of the groups were comparable. Patients had already achieved mastery of their inhalers, were receiving their asthma treatments exclusively via the inhaled route and agreed to complete the questionnaire in the second visit. They were recruited in 79 private medical offices and hospital centers all over Greece. RESULTS: 523 participants completed the study and the questionnaire. Although consistent and satisfactory results were obtained with all DPIs tested, certain statistically significant differences in the ratings between the devices were observed (Elpenhaler® was rated first in 7 out of 10 questions, having also the highest mean total score). No significant differences in scores from patients of different ages were observed in any of the tested devices. CONCLUSIONS: Certain statistically significant differences were found in ratings between the tested DPIs. Devices were similarly acceptable to adult patients of different ages.