

Correspondence

Improvements with sublingual house dust mite immunotherapy in allergic rhinitis

To the Editor:

The results of Demoly et al¹ demonstrate promising effects of 2 doses of the house dust mite sublingual tablet in allergic rhinitis, with mean improvements in the primary outcome of the total combined rhinitis score exceeding the minimal clinically important difference of 1.0. However, on inspection of the 95% CIs, it is evident that the lower bounds for improvements in the total combined rhinitis score were less than the minimal clinically important difference: reported changes from placebo were 0.45 (6.7% difference) and 0.49 (7.2% difference) for 6 and 12 standard quality house dust mite doses, respectively, inferring that such responses were statistically significant but perhaps not so clinically meaningful.² Pointedly, no clinically relevant improvements were observed in disease-specific quality-of-life score. This, in turn, begs the question as to whether similar

improvements would be seen with standard quality house dust mite in patients with persistent allergic rhinitis who were optimally treated with conventional pharmacotherapy.

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