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Issues of fluticasone nasal spray in seasonal allergic rhinitis

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To the Editor:

I read with the interest the article by Jen et al (Jen A, Baroody F, deTineo M, Haney L, Blair C, Naclerio R. As-needed fluticasone propionate nasal spray reduces symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis. 2000;105:732-8). There are some issues that I would like to raise.

First, statistically significant differences in symptom scores between the as-needed fluticasone and placebo groups did not become evident until treatment day 5. Currently available as-needed medicines provide symptom relief on day 1, some within minutes or hours.¹ Given this, it would be unlikely that the typical allergy patient or his or her physician would wait 5 days for an as-needed medication to begin working before wanting to try something else.

Second, no mention is made of how many of the subjects in the as-needed fluticasone group actually used their medication on each day of the 28-day study. Many patients may have used the medicine in the first few days although symptom scores were no better than with placebo until day 5. This point is important because fluticasone's package insert claims to decrease nasal symptoms in some patients in as little as 12 hours after initial treatment. I would like to ask the authors to disclose how often and on which treatment days the as-needed fluticasone was actually used.

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Reference

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1. Baumgarten CR, et al. Modification of allergen induced symptoms and mediator release by intranasal azelastine. J Pharmacol U Ther 1994;3:43-51.

Articles with References to this Article

TOP

This article is referenced by these articles:

Safety review of benzalkonium chloride used as a preservative in intranasal solutions: An overview of conflicting data and opinions

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