receiving formoterol 24 µg twice daily than in those receiving 12 µg twice daily, or placebo.2 Actually, this statement should have been based on the review by Mann et al,3 that assessed data from three prospective, randomised, placebo-controlled and double-blind studies of formoterol at different dosages submitted to the US Food and Drug Administration. The authors concluded that more patients treated regularly with formoterol 24 µg twice daily had serious asthma exacerbations than did patients who had been treated with formoterol 12 µg twice daily, or placebo (4.5% vs 2.0%, vs 0.4%, respectively). In any case, evidence from controlled studies suggests that the use of long-acting β-agonists added to inhaled corticosteroids is safe and effective for the treatment of asthma.

Gustavo J Rodrigo,1 Jose A Castro-Rodríguez2

1Emergency Department, Hospital Central de las Fuerzas Armadas, Montevideo, Uruguay
2School of Medicine, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Las Condes, Santiago, Chile

Correspondence to Dr Gustavo J Rodrigo, Emergency Department, Hospital Central de las Fuerzas Armadas, Uruguay, Av. 8 de Octubre 3020, Montevideo 11300, Uruguay; gurodrig@adinet.com.uy

Competing interests None.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; internally peer reviewed.

Accepted 13 April 2012
Published Online First 10 May 2012

doi:10.1136/thoraxjnl-2012-202014

REFERENCES
Safety of long-acting β-agonists in asthma

Gustavo J Rodrigo and Jose A Castro-Rodriguez

Thorax 2012 67: 1015 originally published online May 10, 2012
doi: 10.1136/thoraxjnl-2012-202014

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://thorax.bmj.com/content/67/11/1015.2

These include:

References
This article cites 3 articles, 1 of which you can access for free at:
http://thorax.bmj.com/content/67/11/1015.2#BIBL

Email alerting service
Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/