## Spoken sessions

Background We evaluated the effect of once-daily tiotropium Respimat<sup>®</sup> 5 μg on lung function, asthma exacerbation and asthma symptom control among patients with symptomatic asthma receiving inhaled corticosteroids (ICS;  $\geq$ 800 μg/day budesonide or equivalent) + long-acting  $\beta_2$ -agonist (LABA).

Methods Data were pooled from two replicate, double-blind, placebo-controlled, 48-week, parallel-group studies of once-daily tiotropium 5 µg versus placebo, both delivered via the Respimat® SoftMist™ inhaler (PrimoTinA-asthma®: NCT00772538, NCT00776984). Eligible patients had: ≥5-year history of asthma diagnosed before the age of 40 years; seven-question Asthma Control Questionnaire (ACQ-7) score of ≥1.5; experienced ≥1 exacerbation during the previous year. Patients were either lifelong non-smokers, or ex-smokers (<10 pack-years) who quit smoking ≥1 year before study enrolment. Exclusion criteria included diagnosis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Coprimary end points in individual trials: peak forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV<sub>1</sub>) within 3 h post-dose (0-3 h) and trough FEV<sub>1</sub>. A co-primary end point in pooled data was time to first severe exacerbation; secondary end points included time to first episode of asthma worsening and ACQ-7 response. Post hoc efficacy analyses were performed.

Results 912 patients were randomised to receive tiotropium Respimat® (n = 456) or placebo Respimat® (n = 456). At Week 48, tiotropium Respimat® was associated with statistically significant improvements versus placebo Respimat® in peak FEV<sub>1(0-3h)</sub> (adjusted mean difference 100 mL; 95% confidence interval: 52, 148; p < 0.0001) and trough FEV<sub>1</sub> (adjusted mean difference 62 mL; 95% confidence interval: 18, 106; p = 0.006). Time to first severe asthma exacerbation was significantly longer with tiotropium Respimat® versus placebo Respimat® (282 vs 226 days, respectively; hazard ratio 0.79; p = 0.034), as was time to first episode of asthma worsening (315 vs 181 days, respectively; hazard ratio 0.69; p < 0.0001). At Week 24, ACQ-7 responder rate was significantly higher with tiotropium Respimat® (53.9%) versus placebo Respimat® (46.9%; odds ratio 1.32; p = 0.0427).

Conclusion Once-daily tiotropium Respimat<sup>®</sup> add-on to ICS + LABA improves lung function, reduces risk of severe asthma exacerbation and asthma worsening, and significantly improves asthma symptom control compared with placebo Respimat<sup>®</sup> in patients with symptomatic asthma.

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## EFFICACY OF ONCE-DAILY TIOTROPIUM RESPIMAT® 5 $\mu\text{G}$ FROM FIVE PHASE III TRIALS IN ADULTS WITH SYMPTOMATIC ASTHMA

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Background Recent clinical trials have indicated that the long-acting antimuscarinic agent tiotropium, a once-daily long-acting bronchodilator, may provide benefit to patients with symptomatic asthma. We investigated primary efficacy data (lung function, risk of severe exacerbation and seven-question Asthma Control Questionnaire [ACQ-7] response) from five Phase III, randomised, double-blind, parallel-group trials that evaluated the efficacy and safety of once-daily tiotropium add-on versus placebo add-on (all tiotropium doses delivered via the Respimat®

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	Adjusted mean of difference in response from placebo (mL)			
	PrimoTinA-asthma <sup>®</sup> (Week 24)	MezzoTinA-asthma <sup>®</sup> (Week 24)	GraziaTinA-asthma® (Week 12)	
	Tiotropium	Tiotropium	Tiotropium	
	Respimat <sup>®</sup> 5 μg <sup>a</sup>	Respimat <sup>®</sup> 5 μg <sup>a</sup>	Respimat <sup>®</sup> 5 μg	
	(n = 456)	(n = 517)	(n = 155)	
Peak FEV <sub>1(0-3h)</sub>	110 (p < 0.0001)	185 (p < 0.0001)	128 (p = 0.0005)	
Trough FEV <sub>1</sub>	93 (p = 0.0058)	146 (p < 0.0001)	122 ( $p = 0.0010$ )	
FEV <sub>1</sub> AUC <sub>(0-3h)</sub>	107 (p < 0.0001)	182 (p < 0.0001)	125 ( $p = 0.0003$ )	
Peak FVC <sub>(0-3h)</sub>	87 (p = 0.0050)	95 (p < 0.0001)	57 (p = 0.1714)	

<sup>a</sup>Pooled data

AUC, area under the curve;  $\text{FEV}_1$ , forced expiratory volume in 1 second; FVC, forced vital capacity

SoftMist<sup>TM</sup> inhaler) in adults with symptomatic asthma on inhaled corticosteroid (ICS)  $\pm$  long-acting  $\beta_2$ -agonist (LABA) maintenance therapy.

Methods Two 48-week trials of tiotropium Respimat<sup>®</sup> 5 μg (PrimoTinA-asthma<sup>®</sup>: NCT00776984, NCT00772538) in patients on high-dose ICS (≥800 μg budesonide or equivalent) + LABA; two 24-week trials of tiotropium Respimat<sup>®</sup> 5 μg and 2.5 μg (MezzoTinA-asthma<sup>®</sup>: NCT01172808, NCT01172821) in patients on moderate-dose ICS (400–800 μg budesonide or equivalent); one 12-week trial of tiotropium Respimat<sup>®</sup> 5 μg and 2.5 μg (GraziaTinA-asthma<sup>®</sup>: NCT01316380) in patients on low-dose ICS (200–400 μg budesonide or equivalent).

Results 3476 patients were treated, of whom 1128 received tiotropium Respimat  $^{\oplus}$  5 µg. Once-daily tiotropium Respimat  $^{\oplus}$  5 µg significantly improved lung function (Table) in patients with not fully controlled asthma receiving low- to high-dose ICS. In addition, tiotropium Respimat  $^{\oplus}$  5 µg reduced the risk of severe exacerbations versus placebo (co-primary end point) in patients on high-dose ICS + LABA (hazard ratio 0.79; p = 0.0343), and there was an increase in ACQ-7 responder rate (co-primary end point) with the5 µg dose (odds ratio 1.32; p = 0.0308) compared with placebo in patients on moderate-dose ICS.

Conclusion Once-daily tiotropium Respimat<sup>®</sup> significantly improves lung function in adult patients with symptomatic asthma receiving a range of doses of ICS, including even high-dose ICS + LABA, suggesting a potential role for this treatment as add-on to ICS in adults with symptomatic asthma.

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A PROSPECTIVE STUDY INVESTIGATING
EXACERBATIONS, HEALTHCARE UTILISATION AND
HEALTH ECONOMIC INDICATORS IN OMALIZUMAB
TREATED SEVERE ALLERGIC ASTHMA PATIENTS —
RESULTS FROM AN INTERIM ANALYSIS OF THE APEX II
STUDY

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Background A previous retrospective study of UK clinical practice demonstrated that omalizumab was associated with reduced exacerbations and healthcare utilisation in severe allergic asthmatics.

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