

- 15 Robinson AC, Cherry JR, Daly S. Double-blind cross-over trial comparing beclomethasone dipropionate and terfenadine in perennial rhinitis. *Clin Exp Allergy* 1989;19:569-73.
- 16 Bunnag C, Jareoncharsi P, Wong EC. A double-blind comparison of nasal budesonide and oral astemizole for the treatment of perennial rhinitis. *Allergy* 1992;47:313-7.
- 17 Darnell R, Pecoud A, Richards DH. A double-blind comparison of fluticasone propionate aqueous nasal spray, terfenadine tablets and placebo in the treatment of patients with seasonal allergic rhinitis to grass pollen. *Clin Exp Allergy* 1994;24:1144-50.
- 18 Simpson RJ. Budesonide and terfenadine, separately and in combination, in the treatment of hay fever. *Ann Allergy* 1994;73:497-502.
- 19 Van Bavel J, Findlay SR, Hampel FC Jr, Martin BG, Ratner P, Field E. Intranasal fluticasone propionate is more effective than terfenadine tablets for seasonal allergic rhinitis. *Arch Intern Med* 1994;154:2699-704.
- 20 Schoenwetter W, Lim J. Comparison of intranasal triamcinolone acetonide with oral loratadine for the treatment of patients with seasonal allergic rhinitis. *Clin Ther* 1995;17:479-92.
- 21 Bernstein DI, Creticos PS, Busse WW, Cohen R, Graft DF, Howland WC, et al. Comparison of triamcinolone acetonide nasal inhaler with astemizole in the treatment of ragweed-induced allergic rhinitis. *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 1996;97:749-55.
- 22 Bronsky EA, Dockhorn RJ, Meltzer EO, Shapiro G, Boltansky H, LaForce C, et al. Fluticasone propionate aqueous nasal spray compared with terfenadine tablets in the treatment of seasonal allergic rhinitis. *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 1996;97:915-21.
- 23 Brooks CD, Francom SF, Peel BG, Chene BL, Klott KA. Spectrum of seasonal allergic rhinitis symptom relief with topical corticoid and oral antihistamine given singly or in combination. *Am J Rhinol* 1996;10:193-9.
- 24 Géhanno P, Desfourgeres JL. Fluticasone propionate aqueous nasal spray compared with oral loratadine in patients with seasonal allergic rhinitis. *Allergy* 1997;52:445-50.
- 25 Vervloet D, Charpin D, Desfourgeres JL. Intranasal fluticasone once daily compared with once daily cetirizine in the treatment of seasonal allergic rhinitis. *Clin Drug Invest* 1997;13:291-8.
- 26 Frolund L. Efficacy of an oral antihistamine, loratadine, as compared with a nasal steroid spray, beclomethasone dipropionate, in seasonal allergic rhinitis. *Clin Otolaryngol* 1991;16:527-31.
- 27 Jordana G, Dolovich J, Briscoe MP, Day JH, Drouin MA, Gold M, et al. Intranasal fluticasone propionate versus loratadine in the treatment of adolescent patients with seasonal allergic rhinitis. *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 1996;97:588-95.
- 28 Sibbald B, Hilton S, D'Souza M. An open cross-over trial comparing two doses of astemizole and beclomethasone dipropionate in the treatment of perennial rhinitis. *Clin Allergy* 1986;16:203-11.
- 29 Andersson M, Lindqvist N, Svensson C, Ek L, Pipkorn U. Dry powder inhalation of budesonide in allergic rhinitis. *Clin Otolaryngol* 1993;18:30-3.
- 30 Dickson DJ, Cruickshank JM. Comparison of flunisolide nasal spray and terfenadine tablets in hay fever. *Br J Clin Pract* 1984;38:416-20.
- 31 Backhouse CI, Finnamore VP, Gosden CW. Treatment of seasonal allergic rhinitis with flunisolide and terfenadine. *J Int Med Res* 1986;14:35-41.
- 32 Benincasa C, Lloyd RS. Evaluation of fluticasone propionate aqueous nasal spray taken alone and in combination with cetirizine in the prophylactic treatment of seasonal allergic rhinitis. *Drug Invest* 1994;8:225-33.
- 33 Drouin MA, Yang WH, Horak F, van de Heyning PH, Kunkel GH, Backhouse CI, et al. Adding loratadine to topical nasal steroid therapy improves moderately severe seasonal allergic rhinoconjunctivitis. *Adv Ther* 1995;12:340-9.
- 34 Davies RJ, Lund VJ, Harten-Ash VJ. The effect of intranasal azelastine and beclomethasone on the symptoms and signs of nasal allergy in patients with perennial allergic rhinitis. *Rhinology* 1993;31:159-64.
- 35 Pelucchi A, Chiapparino A, Mastropasqua B, Marazzini L, Hernandez A, Foresi A. Effect of intranasal azelastine and beclomethasone dipropionate on nasal symptoms, nasal cytology, and bronchial responsiveness to methacholine in allergic rhinitis in response to grass pollens. *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 1995;95:515-23.
- 36 Harding SM, Heath H. Intranasal steroid aerosol in perennial rhinitis: comparison with an antihistamine compound. *Clin Allergy* 1976;6:369-72.
- 37 Lau SK, Wei WI, van Hasselt CA, Sham CL, Woo J, Choa D, et al. A clinical comparison of budesonide nasal aerosol, terfenadine and a combination therapy of budesonide and oxymetazoline in adult patients with perennial rhinitis. *Asian Pac J Allergy Immunol* 1990;8:109-15.
- 38 Negrini AC, Troise C, Voltolini S, Horak F, Bachert C, Janssens M. Oral antihistamine/decongestant treatment compared with intranasal corticosteroids in seasonal allergic rhinitis. *Clin Exp Allergy* 1995;25:60-5.
- 39 Hilberg O. Effect of terfenadine and budesonide on nasal symptoms, olfaction, and nasal airways patency following allergen challenge. *Allergy* 1995;50:683-8.
- 40 Meltzer EO. Nasal cytological changes following pharmacological intervention. *Allergy* 1995;50(suppl 23):15-20.
- 41 Ramsdale EH, Kline PA. Comparison of an intranasal steroid (budesonide) with terfenadine in the treatment of ragweed-induced rhinoconjunctivitis. *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 1990;85:244. [Abstract.]
- 42 Ramsdale EH, Kline PA. Comparison of once daily treatment with an antihistamine (loratadine) and topical steroid (fluticasone propionate) during the ragweed pollen season. *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 1991;87:298. [Abstract.]
- 43 Stricker W, Klimes J, Mendelson L, Morris RJ, Reed CE, Shapiro G, et al. Intranasal fluticasone propionate is more effective than astemizole for seasonal allergic rhinitis. *Ann Allergy* 1994;72:86. [Abstract.]
- 44 Nathan RA. Changing strategies in the treatment of allergic rhinitis. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol* 1996;77:255-9.
- 45 Meltzer EO, Weiler JM, Widlitz MD. Comparative outdoor study of the efficacy, onset and duration of action, and safety of cetirizine, loratadine, and placebo for seasonal allergic rhinitis. *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 1996;97:617-26.
- 46 Munk ZM, LaForce C, Furst JA, Simpson B, Feiss G, Smith JA, et al. Efficacy and safety of triamcinolone acetonide aqueous nasal spray in patients with seasonal allergic rhinitis. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol* 1996;77:277-81.
- 47 Selner JC, Weber RW, Richmond GW, Stricker WE, Norton JD. Onset of action of aqueous beclomethasone dipropionate nasal spray in seasonal allergic rhinitis. *Clin Ther* 1995;17:1099-109.
- 48 Rak S, Jacobson MR, Studderick RM, Masuyama K, Juliusson S, Kay AB, et al. Influence of prolonged treatment with topical corticosteroid (fluticasone propionate) on early and late phase nasal responses and cellular infiltration in the nasal mucosa after allergen challenge. *Clin Exp Allergy* 1994;24:930-9.
- 49 Gawchick SM, Sacchar CL. The use of nasal corticosteroids in allergic rhinitis. *Pediatr Asthma Allergy Immunol* 1995;9:25-38.
- 50 Pipkorn U, Pukander J, Suonpaa J, Makinen J, Lindqvist N. Long-term safety of budesonide nasal aerosol: a 5.5-year follow-up study. *Clin Allergy* 1988;18:253-9.
- 51 Lipworth BJ, Seckl JR. Measures for detecting systemic bioactivity with inhaled and intranasal corticosteroids. *Thorax* 1997;52:476-82.
- 52 Martinati LC, Sette L, Chiocca E, Zaninotto M, Plebani M, Boner AL. Effect of beclomethasone dipropionate nasal aerosol on serum markers of bone metabolism in children with seasonal allergic rhinitis. *Clin Exp Allergy* 1993;23:986-91.
- 53 Wolthers OD, Pederson S. Knemometric assessment of systemic activity of once daily intranasal dry-powder budesonide in children. *Allergy* 1994;49:96-9.
- 54 Branman MD, Herron JM, Reidenberg P, Affrime MB. Lack of hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis suppression with once-daily or twice-daily beclomethasone dipropionate aqueous nasal spray administered to patients with allergic rhinitis. *Clin Ther* 1995;17:637-47.
- 55 Simons FER, Simons KJ. The pharmacology and use of H1-receptor-antagonist drugs. *N Engl J Med* 1994;330:1663-70.
- 56 Kozma CM, Schulz RM, Sclar DA, Kral KM, Mackowiak JL. A comparison of costs and efficacy of intranasal fluticasone and terfenadine tablets for seasonal allergic rhinitis. *Clin Ther* 1996;18:334-46.
- 57 Berka C, Chin W. Fluticasone propionate intranasal steroid: cost-effectiveness vs antihistamines. *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 1994;93:165. [Abstract.]

(Accepted 15 September 1998)

Correction

Effect of government recommendations on methadone prescribing in south east England: comparison of 1995 and 1997 surveys

An error occurred in this paper by John Strang and Janie Sheridan (28 November, pp 1489-90). The end of the last sentence in the first paragraph should have read: "... and (c) the optimal dosage for methadone maintenance treatment was probably between 50 mg and 100 mg [not 100 g] daily."

Fifty years ago

The new NHS: Moscow calling

Moscow has discovered that all is not well with our Health Service, and the other day took the trouble to tell us so in plain English. A broadcast asserted that the Health Bill came to nothing because "the Right Labourites surrendered to the capitalist Medical Association without even a fight" (Listener, Nov 18). The Labour Government was blamed for not having nationalized the pharmaceutical industry; quackery still exists and doctors have become "merchants" in association with the

commercial chemists, resulting in the neglect of the sufferings of the people. We hasten to print this analysis of events lest Moscow accuse us again of misrepresentation. Eighteen months ago the Meditsinsky Rabotnik ("Medical Worker") reminded us that "from time to time one finds in the Journal lines of which it is difficult to decide which is the greatest in them—malicious slander or timeless ignorance." (*BMJ* 1948;ii:208(suppl))