

## Supplementary information

Supplementary table 4. Studies reporting perceived good or excellent treatment efficacy with topical mast cell stabilisers versus antihistamines, included in the meta-analysis.

Reference	Setting	Sample age (years) Median (range)	Time of year	Patient inclusion criteria	Patient exclusion criteria	Active treatments	Length of trial	Assessment of subjective symptoms	No. with good treatment efficacy with MCS	Number with good treatment efficacy with anti-histamines
Frostad 1993 <sup>33</sup>	Allergologisk Poliklinikk, Oslo, Norway	30 (19–51)	Hay fever season	History of conjunctivitis owing to birch and grass pollen, positive skin prick and RAST test to birch and grass pollen in the last year, over 18 years of age,	Conjunctivitis owing to other causes, participation in a hyposensitization programme, concurrent disease or therapy likely to complicate treatment efficacy, treatment with investigational drug 1 month prior to trial, contact lens wearer, poor compliance, pregnant or nursing women	SCG 20mg/dl (qds), levocabastine 0.5 mg/dl (bd)	4 months	Patients daily assessment, efficacy assessed at the end of the trial	25/34 <sup>a</sup>	32/37 <sup>a</sup>
Vermeulen 1994 <sup>35</sup>	Multicentre, South Africa	(6–15)	Not stated	1 year history of seasonal allergic rhinoconjunctivitis, skin prick and RAST test positive	Medications that could interfere with evaluation of the study drugs (oral antihistamines, vasoconstrictors, corticosteroids) Not stated	SCG 2% (qds), levocabastine 0.05% (bd), both with nasal spray	4 weeks	Patients daily assessment, investigators global evaluation	34/57 <sup>a</sup>	38/53 <sup>a</sup>
Wihl 1991 <sup>36</sup>	3-centre study in Malmö, Hässleholm, Örebro, Sweden	25 (17–52)	Apr 1989	History of seasonal allergic conjunctivitis during the tree and grass pollen seasons, for at least 1 year, positive skin prick and RAST test to birch and thimothy grass allergens, current allergic rhinitis, aged >15 years	Not stated	SCG (qds), levocabastine (bd)	10 weeks	Patient daily diary cards	26/29	29/32
Richard 1998 <sup>37</sup>	7-centre study, France	Mean = 31 (6–67)	Not stated	History of allergic conjunctivitis and symptomatic of for at least 24 hours, positive skin prick or RAST test, a personal or family history of allergy	Hypersensitivity to any constituents of study eyedrops, other conjunctivitis, medications (including topical ocular preparations, corticoids, antihistamines, nasal sodium cromoglycate, local vasoconstrictors), which could influence the results of the study (unless washed-out). Contact lens wearers,	Lodoxamide 0.1% (qds), levocabastine 0.05% (bd) + vehicle (bd)	14 days	Patient symptoms assessed by investigator at each visit	30/46	28/47

**Supplementary information**

monocular patients, pregnant  
or lactating women.

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<sup>a</sup>Intention-to-treat analysis. SCG = sodium cromoglycate; MCS = mast cell stabiliser; RAST = radioallergosorbent test; qds = four times daily, bd = twice daily.