



Outcomes over the first two years of treatment with mepolizumab in severe asthma

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This study found that 30% of patients stopped mepolizumab in the second year of treatment. Those with a sustained response had lower blood eosinophils and better asthma control questionnaire scores prior to starting mepolizumab. <https://bit.ly/3ChWN63>

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To the Editor:

Mepolizumab was the first anti-interleukin-5 (anti-IL-5) monoclonal antibody licensed for the treatment of severe asthma, recommended as add-on treatment in patients with frequent exacerbations or requiring maintenance oral corticosteroids (OCS) despite optimal inhaled therapy [1, 2]. In clinical trials it reduced exacerbation rates and OCS use, and improved lung function, asthma control and health-related quality of life over the first year of treatment [3–6]. Current guidance states that anti-IL-5 biologics should be continued long term if benefit is demonstrated over the first year, yet little is known about whether initial responses are sustained, or whether they can be predicted by clinical characteristics.

