

**Combivent salbutamol + ipratropium bromide : new product information /  
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# COMBIVENT

salbutamol + ipratropium bromide

NEW PRODUCT  
INFORMATION

Dear Doctor,

## COPD DIAGNOSIS...A COMBINATION OF FACTORS?

A universally agreed definition of COPD has eluded clinicians since its aetiology may be multifactorial. There are, however a number of key indicators which point to a diagnosis of COPD eg., patient history (age, smoking history, occupation) as well as lung function measurements.

## COPD MANAGEMENT...A COMBINATION OF THERAPIES?

It is globally accepted that the aim of treatment is to improve the patient's quality of life by reducing airflow obstruction.

Up until now, one therapeutic option has been to prescribe salbutamol as sole bronchodilator therapy. In COPD however, patients may require regular treatment with both ipratropium bromide and salbutamol, since it is recognised that "anticholinergic drugs may produce equivalent or even greater bronchodilatation than  $\beta_2$ -agonists, since vagal tone is the major reversible element in such patients".<sup>1</sup>

## COMBIVENT®...A LOGICAL COMBINATION


New COMBIVENT® metered dose inhaler combines the benefits of both therapies in one single treatment offering COPD patients enhanced symptom control.

- Combivent is as fast acting as salbutamol alone in improving FEV<sub>1</sub>.<sup>2</sup>
- Combivent is more effective than salbutamol alone in producing bronchodilation, providing greater maximum improvement in FEV<sub>1</sub>.<sup>2</sup>
- Combivent offers longer lasting bronchodilation than salbutamol alone.<sup>2</sup>
- Combivent in a single inhaler encourages patient compliance.
- Combivent is a single item prescription cost.

....to give an altogether logical combined treatment.

If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Mark Barrett  
Senior Product Manager



Boehringer  
Ingelheim

#### References:

1. Barnes PJ In: Anticholinergic Therapy in Obstructive Airways Disease (Ed Gross NJ) Franklin Scientific Publications 1993:88-104
2. Data on file. 00627A Clinical Trial Report

**Prescribing information Combivent MDI** Metered Dose Inhaler containing 200 doses, each delivering ipratropium bromide (anticholinergic bronchodilator) 20 micrograms and salbutamol ( $\beta^2$ -adrenergic agonist) 100 micrograms.

**Indication:** treatment of bronchospasm associated with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in patients who require regular treatment with both ipratropium and salbutamol. **Dosage:** Adults only: two puffs four times a day.

**Contra- indication:** known hypersensitivity to any of the components or to atropine or its derivatives. **Precautions:** cardiac disorders; hyperthyroidism;

diabetes mellitus; co-prescription with b-blockers, corticosteroids, xanthine derivatives, other b-agonists or anticholinergics; pregnancy, especially the first trimester, and breast feeding. Potentially serious hypokalaemia may result from  $\beta^2$ -agonist therapy. Advise patient to seek medical advice in the event of acute, rapidly worsening dyspnoea or if response lessens; do not spray into the eye.

**Side-effects:** tremor and nervousness may occur; tachycardia, dizziness, palpitations, headache, local reactions such as dryness of the mouth are less frequent; urinary retention has been reported rarely. As with other bronchodilators, cough and, very rarely, paradoxical bronchoconstriction have been observed. **Basic NHS price:** 10ml vial complete with mouthpiece UK \$6.00. POM. PL 0015/0191. PA 7/52/1

**Product Licence and Authorisation Holder:** Boehringer Ingelheim Limited, Ellesfield Avenue, Bracknell, RG12 8YS. **Date of**

**Preparation:** March 1994. For full prescribing information please see data sheet.

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