

# Apogee

## CLINICAL IMMERSION

**Current Treatment of  
Asthma**  
Eileen Wang MD, MPH



**National Jewish  
Health®**

**Breathing Science is Life.®**

# Objectives

- Goals of asthma management and treatment challenges
- Guideline-directed therapy (Global Initiative for Asthma or GINA)
- Treatment landscape
- Recent updates to recommendations
- Selecting a biologic and factors to consider

# Evolution of Asthma Concepts

1960-1980s

- Bronchospasm
- Smooth Muscle Focus

1990-2000s

- Inflammation
- Asthma Control: Impairment and Risk

2010-current

- Precision Medicine
- Clinical Phenotypes
- Inflammatory Endotypes
- Airway Epithelium
- Barrier Dysfunction
- Airway Hyperresponsiveness
- Mucus Plugging
- Population Health and Health Inequities

Szefer S.J. *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 2018; 142:773-780.  
Singh, S. et al. *Diagnostics* 2023; 13(4): 808.

# GINA goal of asthma management

The goal is to achieve the **best possible long-term asthma outcomes** for each patient:

- Long-term symptom control, which may include:
  - Few/no asthma symptoms, quickly relieved
  - No sleep disturbance
  - Unimpaired physical activity
- Long-term asthma risk minimization, which may include:
  - No exacerbations
  - Improved or stable personal best lung function
  - No requirement for maintenance oral corticosteroids
  - No medication side-effects

When discussing best possible long-term outcomes with a patient, consider:

- Their asthma phenotype
- Clinical features
- Multimorbidity
- Risk factors (e.g. poor adherence, smoking, persistent airflow limitation)
- Availability, cost and adverse effects of medications
- The patient's goals (these may be different from medical goals)

- Assessing symptom control is not enough! Patients with few asthma symptoms can still have severe or fatal exacerbations related to individual risk factors or external triggers (viruses, allergen, pollution)
- Encourage referral for expert advice for patients with difficult-to-treat or severe asthma



# Patient Questionnaires

1. In the past **4 weeks**, how much of the time did your **asthma** keep you from going about your normal activities?

All of the time	1	Most of the time	2	Some of the time	3
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2. During the past **4 weeks**, how often have you had shortness of breath?

More than once a day	1	Once a day	2	3 to 6 times a week	3
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3. During the past **4 weeks**, how often did your **asthma** symptoms (wheezing or pain) wake you up at night or earlier than usual in the morning?

4 or more nights a week	1	2 or 3 nights a week	2	Once a week	3
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4. During the past **4 weeks**, how often have you used your rescue inhaler or nebulizer?

3 or more times per day	1	1 or 2 times per day	2	2 or 3 times per week	3
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5. How would you rate your **asthma** control during the past **4 weeks**?

Not controlled at all	1	Poorly controlled	2	Somewhat controlled	3
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The American Lung Association supports the Asthma Control Test and does not endorse products.

Copyright 2002, by QualityMetric Incorporated.  
Asthma Control Test is a trademark of QualityMetric Incorporated.

**If your score is 19 or less, your asthma may be uncontrolled.  
Talk to your doctor.**

**In the past 2 weeks, has coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, or chest tightness:**

1. Bothered you during the day on **more than 4 days**?
2. Woke you up from sleep **more than 1 time**?
3. Limited the activities you want to do **every day**?
4. Caused you to use your rescue inhaler or nebulizer **every day**?

Yes	No
Yes	No
Yes	No
Yes	No



Primatec® MIST  
(Amphastar Pharmaceuticals)  
or  
Epinephrine



ProAir RespiClick®  
(Teva Respiratory, LLC)  
or  
Albuterol sulfate



Proventil® HFA (Merck Sharp  
& Dohme Corp., a subsidiary  
of Merck & Co., Inc.)  
or  
Albuterol sulfate



Ventolin® HFA  
(GlaxoSmithKline)  
or  
Albuterol sulfate



Xopenex HFA® (Sunovion  
Pharmaceuticals Inc.)  
or  
Levalbuterol tartrate



Albuterol sulfate or Xopenex®  
(Sunovion Pharmaceuticals Inc.)  
or  
Levalbuterol HCl

Please see all prescribing information for all products.

**In the past 2 weeks:**

5. Did you have to limit your social activities (such as visiting with friends/relatives or playing with pets/children) because of your asthma?
6. Did coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, or chest tightness limit your ability to exercise?
7. Did you feel that it was difficult to control your asthma?

Yes	No
Yes	No
Yes	No

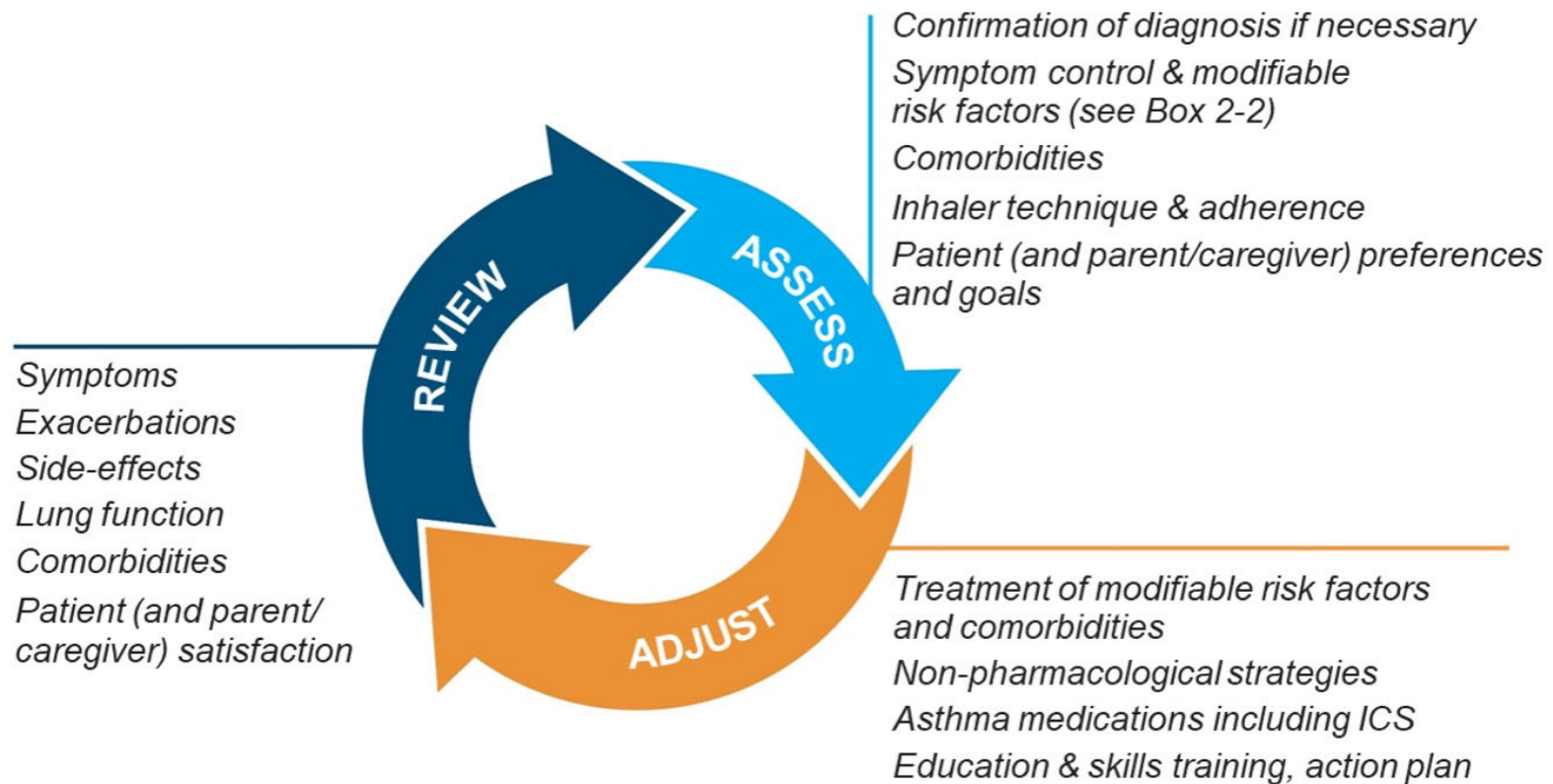
**In the past 12 months, has coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, or chest tightness:**

8. Caused you to take steroid pills or shots, such as prednisone or Medrol®?
9. Caused you to go to the emergency room or have unplanned visits to a health care provider?
10. Caused you to stay in the hospital overnight?

Yes	No
Yes	No
Yes	No

**Total YES Answers**

# Asthma treatment is not 'set and forget', and not just medications



# Treatment Complexity, Challenges, and Barriers

Misdiagnosis

Lack of  
recognition of  
uncontrolled or  
severe asthma

Confounders and  
co-morbidities

Medication  
access and cost

Access to  
subspecialty  
care

Medication  
administration  
complexity

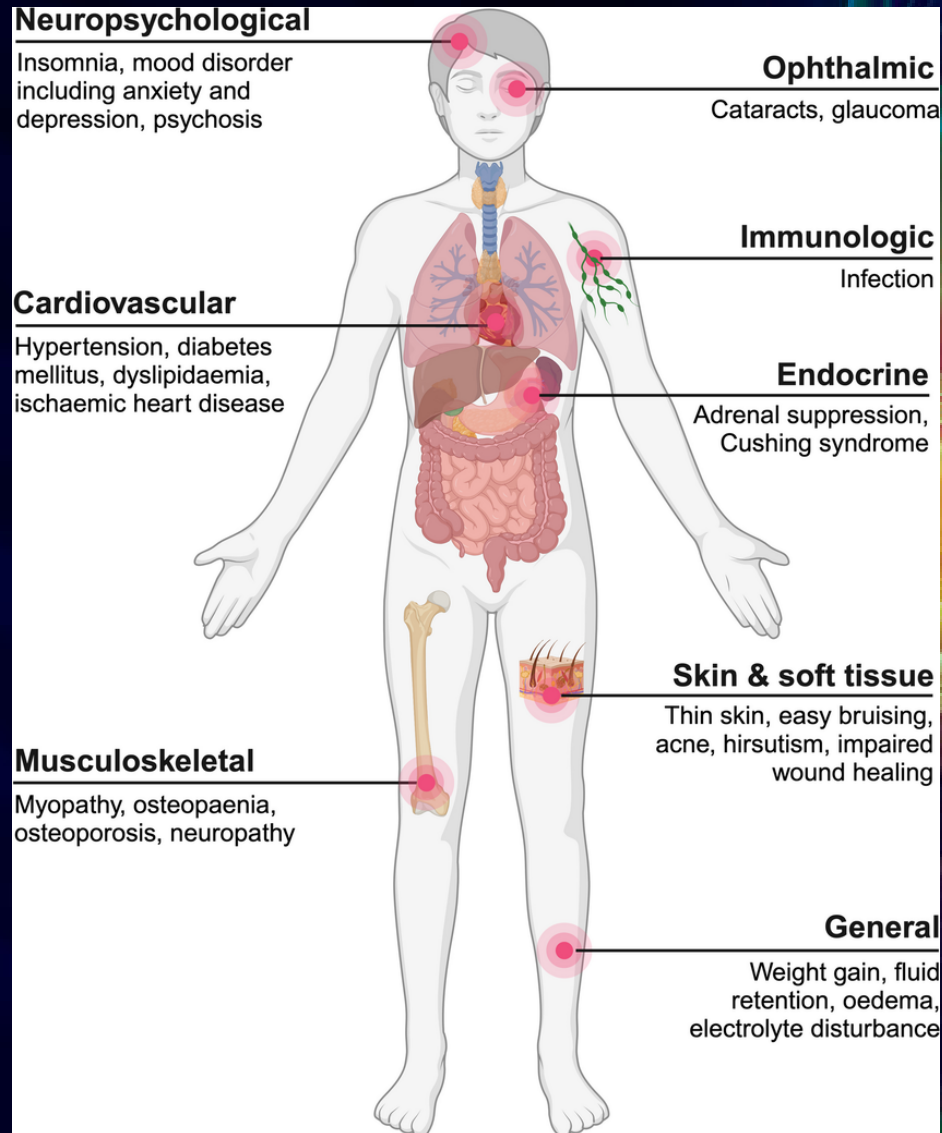
Biologic  
therapies

Glucocorticoid  
resistance

Up to half of patients do not achieve  
well-controlled status with guideline-  
based treatment

# Systemic Corticosteroids Potential Adverse Effects

Liu D., et al. (2024). Current Transplantation Reports. 11. 197-206. 10.1007/s40472-024-00441-9.





## SHORT-ACTING BETA<sub>2</sub>-AGONIST (SABA) BRONCHODILATORS

relax tight muscles in airways and offer quick relief of symptoms such as coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath for 3-6 hours

**Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Solution**  
0.63, 1.25 mg, 2.5 mg;  
3 mL  
G N



**ProAir RespiClick®**  
90 mcg  
albuterol sulfate  
inhalation powder  
IP2B A



**Proventil® HFA**  
90 mcg  
albuterol sulfate  
IP2B A G



**Ventolin® HFA**  
90 mcg  
albuterol sulfate  
IP2B A G



**Xopenex®**  
0.31, 0.63,  
1.25 mg; 3 mL  
levalbuterol  
hydrochloride  
inhalation solution  
A G N



**Xopenex HFA®**  
45 mcg  
levalbuterol  
tertrate  
A G



## SABA and ICS

contains SABA to relax airway muscles and offer quick relief of symptoms, and inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) to reduce inflamed airways

**AIRSUPRA®**  
90/80 mcg  
albuterol and  
budesonide  
IP2B A



## INHALED CORTICOSTEROIDS (ICS)

reduce and prevent swelling of airway tissue; they do not relieve sudden symptoms of coughing, wheezing or shortness of breath

**Alvesco® HFA**  
80, 160 mcg  
ciclesonide  
IP2B A



**Arnuity® Ellipta®**  
50, 100, 200 mcg  
fluticasone furoate inhalation powder  
IP2B A



**Asmanex® HFA**  
50, 100, 200 mcg  
mometasone furoate  
IP2B A



**Asmanex® Twisthaler®**  
110, 220 mcg  
mometasone furoate inhalation powder  
IP2B A



**Fluticasone Propionate Diskus Inhalation Powder**  
50, 100, 250 mcg  
authorized generic of Flovent Diskus  
IP2B A



**Fluticasone Propionate HFA**  
44, 110, 220 mcg  
authorized generic of Flovent HFA  
IP2B A



**Pulmicort Flexhaler®**  
90, 180 mcg  
budesonide inhalation powder  
IP2B A



**Pulmicort Respules®**  
0.25, 0.50, 1.0 mg; 2 mL  
budesonide inhalation suspension  
A G N



**QVAR Redihaler®**  
40, 80 mcg  
beclomethasone dipropionate  
IP2B A



## LONG-ACTING BETA<sub>2</sub>-AGONIST (LABA) BRONCHODILATORS

relax tight muscles in airways and offer lasting relief of symptoms such as coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath for at least 12 hours

**Brovana®**  
15 mcg; 2 mL  
arformoterol tartrate inhalation solution  
C N



**Perforomist®**  
20 mcg; 2 mL  
formoterol tartrate inhalation solution  
G N



**Serevent® Diskus®**  
50 mcg  
salmeterol xinafoate inhalation powder  
IP2B A C



**Striverdi® Respimat®**  
2.5 mcg  
olodaterol hydrochloride  
IP2B C



## MUSCARINIC ANTAGONISTS (ANTICHOLINERGICS)

relieve cough, sputum production, wheeze and chest tightness associated with chronic lung diseases

SHORT-ACTING

**Atrivent® HFA**  
17 mcg  
ipratropium bromide  
IP2B C



LONG-ACTING

**Incruse® Ellipta®**  
62.5 mcg  
umeclidinium inhalation powder  
IP2B C



**Ipratropium Bromide Inhalation Solution**  
0.5/3 mg; 3 mL  
C G N



**Spiriva® HandiHaler®**  
18 mcg  
tiotropium bromide inhalation powder  
C



**Spiriva® Respimat®**  
1.25, 2.5 mcg  
tiotropium bromide  
IP2B A C



**Tudorza® Pressair®**  
400 mcg  
acridinium bromide inhalation powder  
IP2B C



**Yupelri®**  
175 mcg; 3 mL  
revelfenacin inhalation solution  
C N



## COMBINATION MEDICATIONS

contain ICS and LABA

**Advair Diskus®**  
100/50, 250/50,  
500/50 mcg  
fluticasone propionate and salmeterol inhalation powder  
IP2B A C G



**Advair® HFA**  
45/21, 115/21,  
230/21 mcg  
fluticasone propionate and salmeterol xinafoate  
IP2B A G



**AirDuo® RespiClick®**  
55/14, 113/14, 232/14 mcg  
fluticasone propionate and salmeterol inhalation powder  
IP2B A G



**Breo® Ellipta®**  
50/25, 100/25, 200/25 mcg  
fluticasone furoate and vilanterol inhalation powder  
IP2B A C G



**Breyna®**  
80/4.5, 160/4.5 mcg  
budesonide and formoterol fumarate dihydrate (approved generic of Symbicort)  
IP2B A C



**Dulera®**  
50/5, 100/5, 200/5 mcg  
mometasone furoate and formoterol fumarate dihydrate  
IP2B A



**Symbicort®**  
80/4.5, 160/4.5 mcg  
budesonide and formoterol fumarate dihydrate  
IP2B A C G



**Wixela Inhub®**  
100/50, 250/50, 500/50 mcg  
fluticasone propionate and salmeterol xinafoate (approved generic of Advair Diskus)  
IP2B A C



contain LABA and long-acting muscarinic antagonist (LAMA)

**Anoro® Ellipta®**  
62.5/25 mcg  
umeclidinium and vilanterol inhalation powder  
IP2B C



**Bevespi Aerosphere®**  
9/4.8 mcg  
glycopyrrolate and formoterol fumarate  
IP2B C



**Duaklir® Pressair®**  
400/12 mcg  
acridinium bromide and formoterol fumarate  
IP2B C



**Stiolto® Respimat®**  
2.5/2.5 mcg  
tiotropium bromide and olodaterol  
IP2B C



**Trelegy® Ellipta®**  
200/62.5/25 mcg,  
100/62.5/25 mcg  
fluticasone furoate, umeclidinium and vilanterol inhalation powder  
IP2B A C G



**Breztri Aerosphere®**  
160/9/4.8 mcg  
budesonide, glycopyrrolate and formoterol fumarate  
IP2B C



contain SABA and short-acting muscarinic antagonist (SAMA)

**Combivent® Respimat®**  
20/100 mcg  
ipratropium bromide and albuterol  
IP2B C



**Ipratropium Bromide and Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Solution**  
0.5 mg/2.5 mg; 3 mL  
C G



## BIOLOGICS

target cells and pathways that cause airway inflammation, delivered by injection or IV

**Cinqair®**  
62.5/25 mL  
reslizumab  
A



**Dupixent®**  
100, 200, 300 mg  
dupilumab  
A



**Fasenra®**  
30 mg  
bambalimumab  
A



**Nucala®**  
100 mg  
mepolizumab  
A



**Tezspire®**  
210 mg  
tezepelumab-ekko  
A



**Xolair®**  
75 to 375 mg  
omalizumab  
A



## PDE4 INHIBITORS

target lung inflammation and reduce exacerbations

**Daliresp®**  
250, 500 mcg  
roflumilast  
C



## LEUKOTRIENE MODIFIERS

block chemicals called leukotrienes that cause airway inflammation; available as tablet or granules

**Singulair®**  
4, 5, 10 mg  
montelukast  
A



**Zafirlukast**  
10, 20 mg  
A



**Zileuton**  
600 mg  
A









EDITORIAL  
GINA 2019



# GINA 2019: a fundamental change in asthma management

Treatment of asthma with short-acting bronchodilators alone is no longer recommended for adults and adolescents

Helen K. Reddel <sup>1</sup>, J. Mark FitzGerald<sup>2</sup>, Eric D. Bateman<sup>3</sup>,  
Leonard B. Bacharier<sup>4</sup>, Allan Becker<sup>5</sup>, Guy Brusselle<sup>6</sup>, Roland Buhl<sup>7</sup>,  
Alvaro A. Cruz<sup>8</sup>, Louise Fleming <sup>9</sup>, Hiromasa Inoue<sup>10</sup>, Fanny Wai-san Ko <sup>11</sup>,  
Jerry A. Krishnan<sup>12</sup>, Mark L. Levy <sup>13</sup>, Jiangtao Lin<sup>14</sup>, Søren E. Pedersen<sup>15</sup>,  
Aziz Sheikh<sup>16</sup>, Arzu Yorgancioglu<sup>17</sup> and Louis-Philippe Boulet<sup>18</sup>



## Audience Response

- Why is short acting beta agonist (SABA) therapy alone no longer recommended?

A. Regular use of SABA is associated with increased airway hyperresponsiveness

B. SABA treats inflammation but inadequately treats bronchoconstriction

C. Overuse of SABA is not associated with significant benefits or risks

# Why Not SABA alone?

- Does not treat underlying inflammation
  - Treats symptoms but not disease
- Those with mild to moderate asthma have been shown to still be at risk of severe and fatal exacerbations
  - Can be unpredictable
  - Up to 27% of deaths due to asthma are in patients with occasional symptoms
- Data supporting risk in regular use or overuse of SABA
  - Increased airway hyperresponsiveness, exacerbation risk and mortality
- Starting with SABA alone trains patients early that it is their primary asthma medication
- **For children 6-11, adolescents, and adults, GINA does not recommend treatment of asthma with SABA alone.**

Nwaru BI, et al. Eru Respir J. 2020.  
Bergström S, et al. Respir Med 2008.  
Cole s, et al. BMJ Open 2013.  
GINA 2024.

# GINA 2024

## Adults and Adolescents 12-17 years

### TRACK 1: **PREFERRED** **CONTROLLER** and **RELIEVER**

Using ICS-formoterol as the reliever\* reduces the risk of exacerbations compared with using a SABA reliever, and is a simpler regimen

#### STEPS 1 – 2

As-needed-only low dose ICS-formoterol\*

RELIEVER:

### TRACK 2: Alternative **CONTROLLER** and **RELIEVER**

Before considering a regimen with SABA reliever, check if the patient is likely to adhere to daily controller treatment

#### STEP 1

Take ICS whenever SABA taken\*

## Children 6-11 years

### **PREFERRED** **CONTROLLER**

to prevent exacerbations and control symptoms

#### STEP 1

Low dose ICS taken whenever SABA taken\*

# What is Anti-Inflammatory Reliever or Rescue (AIR)?

## Definitions

- Anti-inflammatory reliever or rescue (AIR): pairing inhaled corticosteroid with bronchodilator for **reliever therapy**
  - Examples are ICS/formoterol (ICS/LABA) and ICS/albuterol (ICS/SABA)
- Maintenance and reliever therapy (MART)
- Single maintenance and reliever therapy (SMART)

## Adults and Adolescents 12-17 years

### TRACK 1: PREFERRED CONTROLLER and RELIEVER

Using ICS-formoterol as the reliever\* reduces the risk of exacerbations compared with using a SABA reliever, and is a simpler regimen

#### STEPS 1 – 2

As-needed-only low dose ICS-formoterol\*

#### STEP 3

Low dose  
maintenance  
ICS-formoterol

#### STEP 4

Medium dose  
maintenance  
ICS-formoterol

#### STEP 5

Add-on LAMA  
Refer for assessment  
of phenotype. Consider  
high dose maintenance  
ICS-formoterol,  
± anti-IgE, anti-IL5/5R,  
anti-IL4Rα, anti-TSLP

RELIEVER: As-needed low-dose ICS-formoterol\*

\*Anti-inflammatory reliever

## Adults and Adolescents 12-17 years

### TRACK 2: Alternative **CONTROLLER** and **RELIEVER**

Before considering a regimen with SABA reliever, check if the patient is likely to adhere to daily controller treatment

#### STEP 1

Take ICS whenever SABA taken\*

#### STEP 2

Low dose maintenance ICS

#### STEP 3

Low dose maintenance ICS-LABA

#### STEP 4

Medium/high dose maintenance ICS-LABA

#### STEP 5

Add-on LAMA  
Refer for assessment of phenotype. Consider high dose maintenance ICS-LABA,  $\pm$  anti-IgE, anti-IL5/5R, anti-IL4R, anti-TSLP

RELIEVER: as-needed ICS-SABA\*, or as-needed SABA

\*Anti-inflammatory reliever



# GINA 2024

## Children 6-11 years

### Asthma medication options:

Adjust treatment up and down for individual child's needs

#### PREFERRED CONTROLLER

to prevent exacerbations and control symptoms

*Other controller options (limited indications, or less evidence for efficacy or safety)*

#### RELIEVER

#### STEP 1

Low dose ICS taken whenever SABA taken\*

#### STEP 2

Daily low dose inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) (see table of ICS dose ranges for children)

*Daily leukotriene receptor antagonist (LTRA<sup>†</sup>), or low dose ICS taken whenever SABA taken\**

#### STEP 3

Low dose ICS-LABA, OR medium dose ICS, OR very low dose ICS-formoterol maintenance and reliever therapy (MART)

*Low dose ICS + LTRA<sup>†</sup>*

#### STEP 4

Refer for expert advice, OR medium dose ICS-LABA, OR low dose ICS-formoterol maintenance and reliever therapy (MART)

*Add tiotropium or add LTRA<sup>†</sup>*

As-needed SABA (or ICS-formoterol reliever\* in MART in Steps 3 and 4)

\*Anti-inflammatory reliever; <sup>†</sup>advise about risk of neuropsychiatric adverse effects



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ORIGINAL ARTICLE



# Inhaled Combined Budesonide–Formoterol as Needed in Mild Asthma

**Authors:** Paul M. O'Byrne, M.B., J. Mark FitzGerald, M.D., Eric D. Bateman, M.D., Peter J. Barnes, M.D., Nanshan Zhong, Ph.D., Christina Keen, M.D., Carin Jorup, M.D., Rosa Lamarca, Ph.D., Stefan Ivanov, M.D., Ph.D., and Helen K. Reddel, M.B., B.S., Ph.D. [Author Info & Affiliations](#)

Published May 16, 2018 | N Engl J Med 2018;378:1865-1876 | DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1715274 | **VOL. 378 NO. 20**

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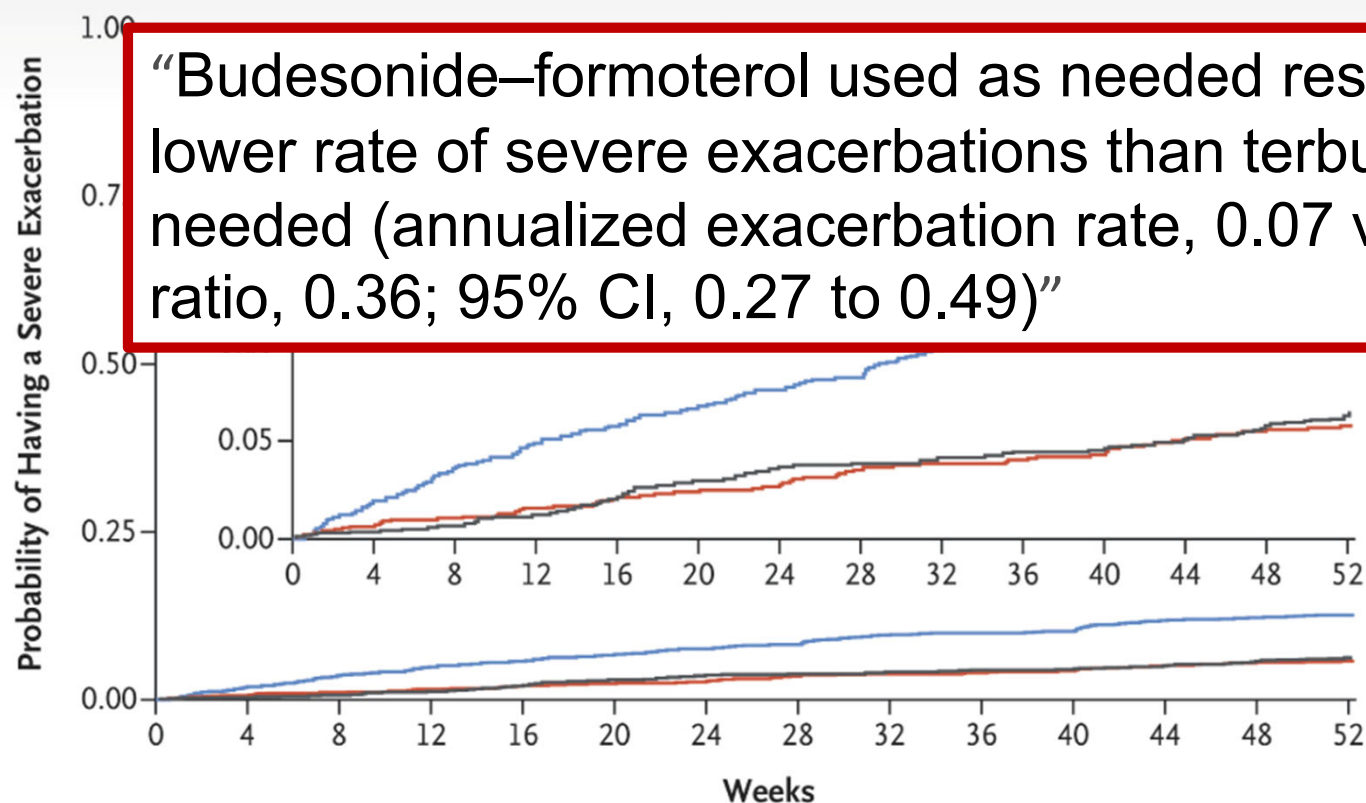
**SYGMA 1 Trial**

52-week  
study

12 years of  
age and  
older with  
mild asthma  
(appropriate  
for GINA  
step 2)

N=3836

# Severe Exacerbation Risk Reduction with ICS-Formoterol



“Budesonide–formoterol used as needed resulted in a 64% lower rate of severe exacerbations than terbutaline used as needed (annualized exacerbation rate, 0.07 vs. 0.20; rate ratio, 0.36; 95% CI, 0.27 to 0.49)”

ICS maintenance with SABA  
as needed  
(N = 1282)

O'Byrne et al, NEJM 2018



**Cochrane** Database of Systematic Reviews

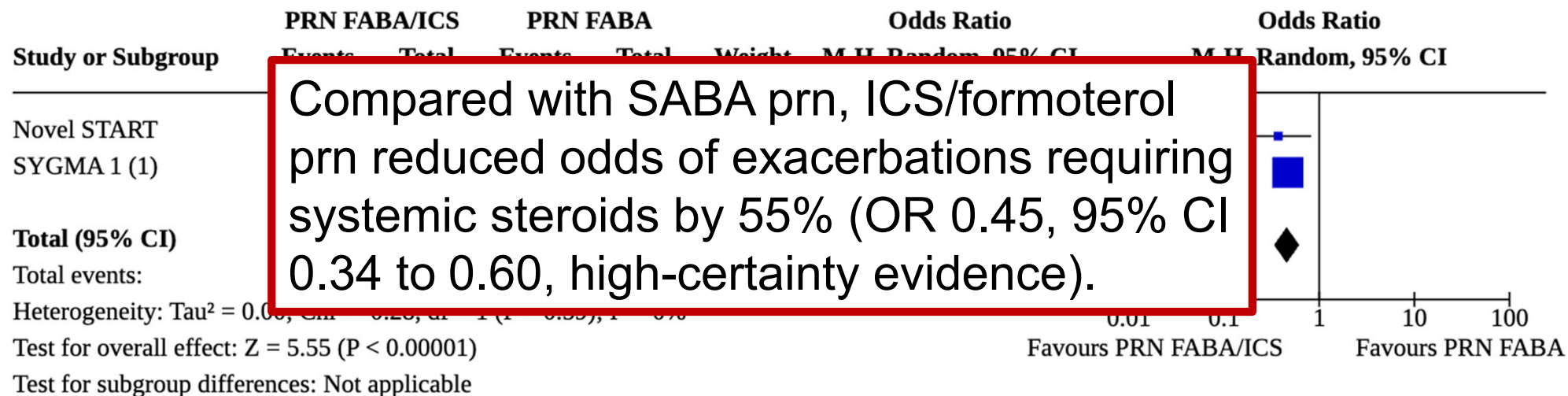
## **Combination fixed-dose beta agonist and steroid inhaler as required for adults or children with mild asthma (Review)**

Crossingham I, Turner S, Ramakrishnan S, Fries A, Gowell M, Yasmin F, Richardson R, Webb P, O'Boyle E, Hinks TSC

*Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2021, Issue 5. Art. No.: CD013518.  
DOI: [10.1002/14651858.CD013518.pub2](https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD013518.pub2).

# ICS/Formoterol PRN and Reduction in Exacerbations Requiring Systemic Corticosteroid

## Analysis 1.1. Comparison 1: As required fixed dose combination inhaler versus as required short acting beta agonist, Outcome 1: Asthma exacerbations requiring systemic steroid



Crossingham I, Turner S, Ramakrishnan S, Fries A, Gowell M, Yasmin F, Richardson R, Webb P, O'Boyle E, Hinks TSC.  
Combination fixed-dose beta agonist and steroid inhaler as required for adults or children with mild asthma.  
*Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2021, Issue 5. Art. No.: CD013518.

# ICS/Formoterol PRN and Reduction in Exacerbations Requiring Hospitalization, ED or UC Visit

**Analysis 1.3. Comparison 1: As required fixed dose combination inhaler versus as required short acting beta agonist, Outcome 3: Exacerbations requiring hospital admission or emergency department / urgent care visit**

Study or Subgroup

PRN  
Even

Novel START (1)  
SYGMA 1

**Total (95% CI)**

Total events:

Heterogeneity:  $\tau^2 = 0.00$ ; Chi

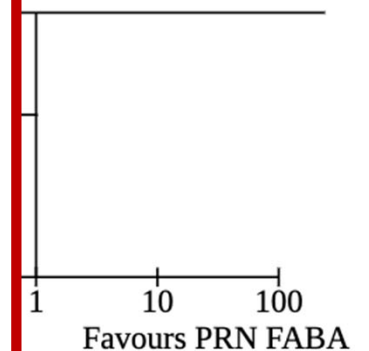
Test for overall effect:  $Z = 3.86$

Test for subgroup differences: Not applicable

Compared with SABA prn, ICS/formoterol prn may also reduce the odds of an asthma-related hospital admission or emergency department or urgent care visit (OR 0.35, 95% CI 0.20 to 0.60, low certainty evidence).

s Ratio

dom, 95% CI



Crossingham I, Turner S, Ramakrishnan S, Fries A, Gowell M, Yasmin F, Richardson R, Webb P, O'Boyle E, Hinks TSC.  
Combination fixed-dose beta agonist and steroid inhaler as required for adults or children with mild asthma.  
*Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2021, Issue 5. Art. No.: CD013518.



## Other Outcomes

- Compared with SABA alone, changes in asthma control or spirometry favored ICS/formoterol but were small and not clinically significant (less than the minimal clinically-important differences).
- No significant differences in asthma-associated quality of life or mortality.
- May reduce total systemic corticosteroid dose (mean difference -9.90 mg of cumulative dose of prednisolone over 52 weeks, 95% CI -19.38 to -0.42, 1 RCT, 443 participants, low-certainty evidence)

## Audience Response

- For those with mild asthma, as needed ICS/formoterol, compared to as needed SABA, has been shown to:
  - A. Meaningfully improve asthma control
  - B. Reduce asthma-related mortality
  - C. Increase total systemic corticosteroid dose
  - D. Reduce risk of exacerbations requiring systemic corticosteroids

## What about GINA Track 2 ICS/SABA?

- Albuterol/budesonide FDA approved 2023 for adults
- For as-needed treatment or prevention of bronchoconstriction and to reduce the risk of exacerbations



- Phase 3 RCT: 3132 patients from North America, South America, Europe, South Africa
- Minimum duration 24 weeks
- Ages 4 and older with at least 1 severe exacerbation in last 12 months, FEV1 reversibility  $\geq 12\%$ , ACQ-5  $\geq 1.5$ , on medium to high-dose ICS (or low to high dose ICS/LABA)
- Maintenance therapy remained same
- Compared albuterol PRN to 2 doses of albuterol/budesonide in 1:1:1 ratio

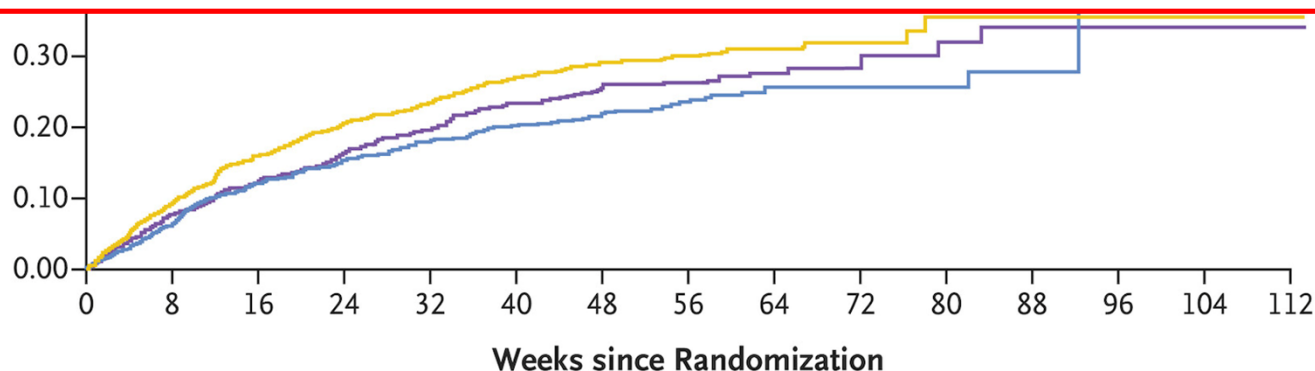
Papi A, et al. NEJM 2022

— Albuterol (180  $\mu$ g)–budesonide (160  $\mu$ g) (N=1013)
 — Albuterol (180  $\mu$ g)–budesonide (80  $\mu$ g) (N=1054)
 — Albuterol (180  $\mu$ g) (N=1056)

Albuterol (180  $\mu$ g)–budesonide (160  $\mu$ g) vs. albuterol (180  $\mu$ g):  
 hazard ratio, 0.74 (95% CI, 0.62–0.89); P=0.001

Cumulative Probability of Severe Exacerbation

“Risk of a severe asthma exacerbation, in a time-to-event analysis, was significantly lower, by 26%, in the higher-dose combination group than in the albuterol-alone group”



Papi A, et al. NEJM 2022

MANDALA Trial

## SHORT-ACTING BETA<sub>2</sub>-AGONIST (SABA) BRONCHODILATORS

relax tight muscles in airways and offer quick relief of symptoms such as coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath for 3-6 hours

**Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Solution**  
0.63, 1.25 mg, 2.5mg;  
3 mL

1234 A



**ProAir RespiClick®**  
90 mcg  
albuterol sulfate  
inhalation powder

1234 A



**Proventil® HFA**  
90 mcg  
albuterol sulfate

1234 A G



**Ventolin® HFA**  
90 mcg  
albuterol sulfate

1234 A G



**Xopenex®**  
0.31, 0.63,  
1.25 mg; 3 mL  
levalbuterol  
hydrochloride  
inhalation solution

1234 A G N



**Xopenex HFA®**  
45 mcg  
levalbuterol  
tartrate

1234 A G



## SABA and ICS

contains SABA to relax airway muscles and offer quick relief of symptoms, and inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) to reduce inflamed airways

**AIRSUPRA®**  
90/80 mcg  
albuterol and  
budesonide

1234 A



## INHALED CORTICOSTEROIDS (ICS)

reduce and prevent swelling of airway tissue; they do not relieve sudden symptoms of coughing, wheezing or shortness of breath

**Alvesco® HFA**  
80, 160 mcg  
ciclesonide

1234 A



**Arnuity® Ellipta®**  
50, 100, 200 mcg  
fluticasone furoate  
inhalation powder

1234 A



**Asmanex® HFA**  
50, 100, 200 mcg  
mometasone  
furoate

1234 A



**Asmanex® Twisthaler®**  
110, 220 mcg  
mometasone  
furoate inhalation  
powder

1234 A



**Fluticasone Propionate Diskus Inhalation Powder**  
50, 100, 250 mcg  
authorized generic  
of Flovent Diskus

1234 A



**Fluticasone Propionate HFA**  
44, 110, 220 mcg  
authorized generic  
of Flovent HFA

1234 A



**Pulmicort Flexhaler®**  
90, 180 mcg  
budesonide  
inhalation  
powder

1234 A



**Pulmicort Respules®**  
0.25, 0.50, 1.0 mg; 2 mL  
budesonide  
inhalation  
suspension

1234 A G N



**QVAR Redihaler®**  
40, 80 mcg  
beclomethasone  
dipropionate

1234 A



## LONG-ACTING BETA<sub>2</sub>-AGONIST (LABA) BRONCHODILATORS

relax tight muscles in airways and offer lasting relief of symptoms such as coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath for at least 12 hours

**Brovana®**  
15 mcg; 2 mL  
arformoterol tartrate  
inhalation solution

1234 C N



**Perforomist®**  
20 mcg; 2 mL  
formoterol fumarate  
inhalation solution

1234 C N



**Serevent® Diskus®**  
50 mcg  
salmeterol  
xinafoate  
inhalation  
powder

1234 A C



**Striverdi® Respimat®**  
2.5 mcg  
olodaterol  
hydrochloride

1234 C



## MUSCARINIC ANTAGONISTS (ANTICHOLINERGICS)

relieve cough, sputum production, wheeze and chest tightness associated with chronic lung diseases

### SHORT-ACTING

**Atrovent® HFA**  
17 mcg  
ipratropium  
bromide

1234 C



### LONG-ACTING

**Incruse® Ellipta®**  
62.5 mcg  
umeclidinium  
inhalation  
powder

1234 C



**Ipratropium Bromide Inhalation Solution**  
0.5/3 mg; 3 mL

1234 C G N



**Spiriva® HandiHaler®**  
18 mcg  
tiotropium  
bromide  
inhalation  
powder

1234 C



**Spiriva® Respimat®**  
1.25, 2.5 mcg  
tiotropium  
bromide

1234 A C



**Tudorza® Pressair®**  
400 mcg  
acridinium bromide  
inhalation  
powder

1234 C



**Yupelri®**  
175 mcg; 3 mL  
revelenacin inhalation  
solution

1234 C N



## COMBINATION MEDICATIONS

contain ICS and LABA

**Advair Diskus®**  
100/50, 250/50,  
500/50 mcg  
fluticasone propionate  
and salmeterol  
inhalation powder

1234 A C G



**Advair® HFA**  
45/21, 115/21,  
230/21 mcg  
fluticasone  
propionate  
and salmeterol  
xinafoate

1234 A G



**AirDuo® RespiClick®**  
55/14, 113/14, 232/14 mcg  
fluticasone propionate  
and salmeterol  
inhalation  
powder

1234 A G



**Breo® Ellipta®**  
50/25, 100/25, 200/25 mcg  
fluticasone furoate  
and vilanterol  
inhalation  
powder

1234 A C G



**Breyna®**  
80/4.5, 160/4.5 mcg  
budesonide and  
formoterol fumarate  
dihydrate (approved  
generic of Symbicort)

1234 A C



**Dulera®**  
50/5, 100/5, 200/5 mcg  
mometasone furoate  
and formoterol  
fumarate dihydrate

1234 A



**Symbicort®**  
80/4.5, 160/4.5 mcg  
budesonide and  
formoterol fumarate  
dihydrate

1234 A C G



**Wixela Inhub®**  
100/50, 250/50, 500/50 mcg  
fluticasone propionate  
and salmeterol  
xinafoate (approved  
generic of Advair Diskus)

1234 A C





# Current Biologics

**BIOLOGICS** target cells and pathways that cause airway inflammation; delivered by injection or IV

**Cinqair®**  
62.5/25 ml  
reslizumab

A



**Dupixent®**  
100, 200, 300 mg  
dupilumab

A



**Fasenra®**  
30 mg  
benralizumab

A



**Nucala®**  
100 mg  
mepolizumab

A



**Tezspire®**  
210 mg  
tezepelumab-ekko

A



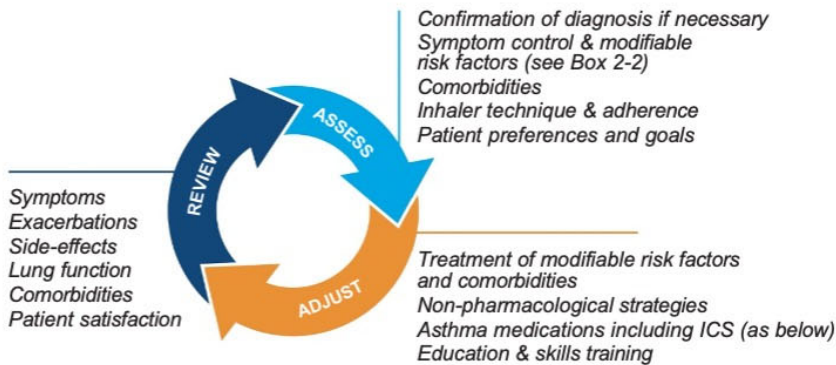
**Xolair®**  
75 to 375 mg  
omalizumab

A



GINA 2024 – Adults & adolescents  
12+ years

Personalized asthma management  
Assess, Adjust, Review  
for individual patient needs



**TRACK 1: PREFERRED CONTROLLER and RELIEVER**  
Using ICS-formoterol as the reliever\* reduces the risk of exacerbations compared with using a SABA reliever, and is a simpler regimen

STEPS 1 – 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5
As-needed-only low dose ICS-formoterol	Low dose maintenance ICS-formoterol	Medium dose maintenance ICS-formoterol	Add-on LAMA Refer for assessment of phenotype. Consider high dose maintenance ICS-formoterol, ± anti-IgE, anti-IL5/5R, anti-IL4Rα, anti-TSLP
RELIEVER: As-needed low-dose ICS-formoterol*			

See GINA severe asthma guide

**TRACK 2: Alternative CONTROLLER and RELIEVER**  
Before considering a regimen with SABA reliever, check if the patient is likely to adhere to daily controller treatment

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5
Take ICS whenever SABA taken*	Low dose maintenance ICS	Low dose maintenance ICS-LABA	Medium/high dose maintenance ICS-LABA	Add-on LAMA Refer for assessment of phenotype. Consider high dose maintenance ICS-LABA, ± anti-IgE, anti-IL5/5R, anti-IL4Rα, anti-TSLP
RELIEVER: As-needed ICS-SABA*, or as-needed SABA				
Low dose ICS whenever SABA taken*, or daily LTRA†, or add HDM SLIT		Medium dose ICS, or add LTRA†, or add HDM SLIT		Add azithromycin (adults) or add LTRA†. As last resort consider adding low dose OCS but consider side-effects

Other controller options (limited indications, or less evidence for efficacy or safety – see text)

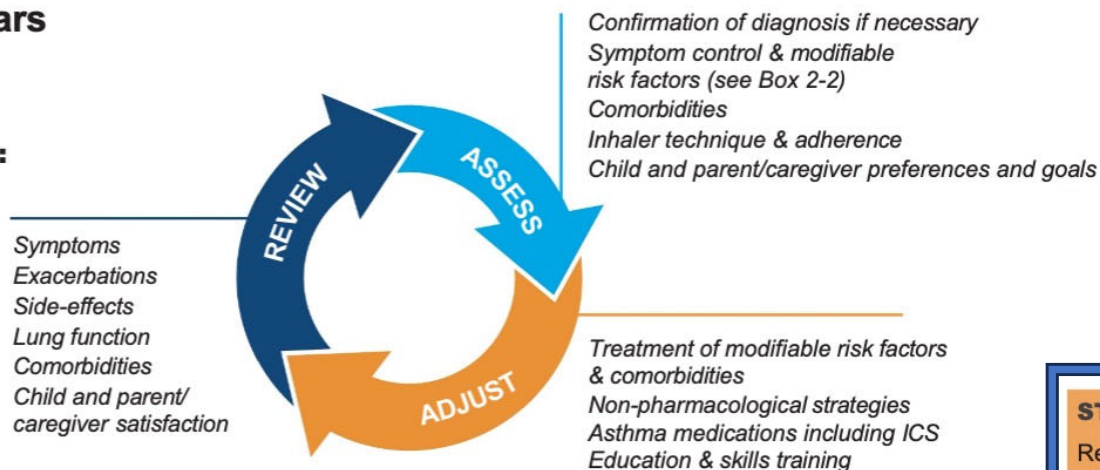
\*Anti-inflammatory reliever; †advise about risk of neuropsychiatric adverse effects

# GINA 2024 – Children 6–11 years



## Personalized asthma management:

Assess, Adjust, Review



## Asthma medication options:

Adjust treatment up and down for individual child's needs

### PREFERRED CONTROLLER

to prevent exacerbations and control symptoms

Other controller options (limited indications, or less evidence for efficacy or safety)

### RELIEVER

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5
Low dose ICS taken whenever SABA taken*	Daily low dose inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) (see table of ICS dose ranges for children)	Low dose ICS-LABA, OR medium dose ICS, OR very low dose ICS-formoterol maintenance and reliever therapy (MART)	Refer for expert advice, OR medium dose ICS-LABA, OR low dose ICS-formoterol maintenance and reliever therapy (MART)	Refer for phenotypic assessment ± higher dose ICS-LABA or add-on therapy, e.g. anti-IgE, anti-IL4Rα, anti-IL5
	Daily leukotriene receptor antagonist (LTRA <sup>†</sup> ), or low dose ICS taken whenever SABA taken*	Low dose ICS + LTRA <sup>†</sup>	Add tiotropium or add LTRA <sup>†</sup>	As last resort, consider add-on low dose OCS, but consider side-effects
As-needed SABA (or ICS-formoterol reliever* in MART in Steps 3 and 4)				

\*Anti-inflammatory reliever; <sup>†</sup>advise about risk of neuropsychiatric adverse effects



# GINA

## Eligibility

### Anti-IgE (omalizumab)

Is the patient eligible for **anti-IgE** for severe allergic asthma?\*

- Sensitization on skin prick testing or specific IgE
- Total serum IgE and weight within dosage range
- Exacerbations in last year

no ↑  
↓ no

### Anti-IL5 / Anti-IL5R (benralizumab, mepolizumab, reslizumab)

Is the patient eligible for **anti-IL5 / anti-IL5R** for severe eosinophilic asthma?\*

- Exacerbations in last year
- Blood eosinophils, e.g.  $\geq 150/\mu\text{l}$  or  $\geq 300/\mu\text{l}$

no ↑  
↓ no

### Anti-IL4R $\alpha$ (dupilumab)

Is the patient eligible for **anti-IL4R $\alpha$**  for severe eosinophilic/Type 2 asthma?\*

- Exacerbations in last year
- Blood eosinophils  $\geq 150$  and  $\leq 1500/\mu\text{l}$ , or FeNO  $\geq 25$  ppb, or taking maintenance OCS

no ↑  
↓ no

### Anti-TSLP (tezepelumab)

Is the patient eligible for **anti-TSLP** for severe asthma?\*

- Exacerbations in last year

## Predictors of asthma response

What factors may predict good asthma response to anti-IgE?

- Blood eosinophils  $\geq 260/\mu\text{l}$  ++
- FeNO  $\geq 20$  ppb +
- Allergen-driven symptoms +
- Childhood-onset asthma +

What factors may predict good asthma response to anti-IL5/5R?

- Higher blood eosinophils +++
- More exacerbations in previous year +++
- Adult-onset of asthma ++
- Nasal polyposis ++

What factors may predict good asthma response to anti-IL4R $\alpha$ ?

- Higher blood eosinophils +++
- Higher FeNO +++

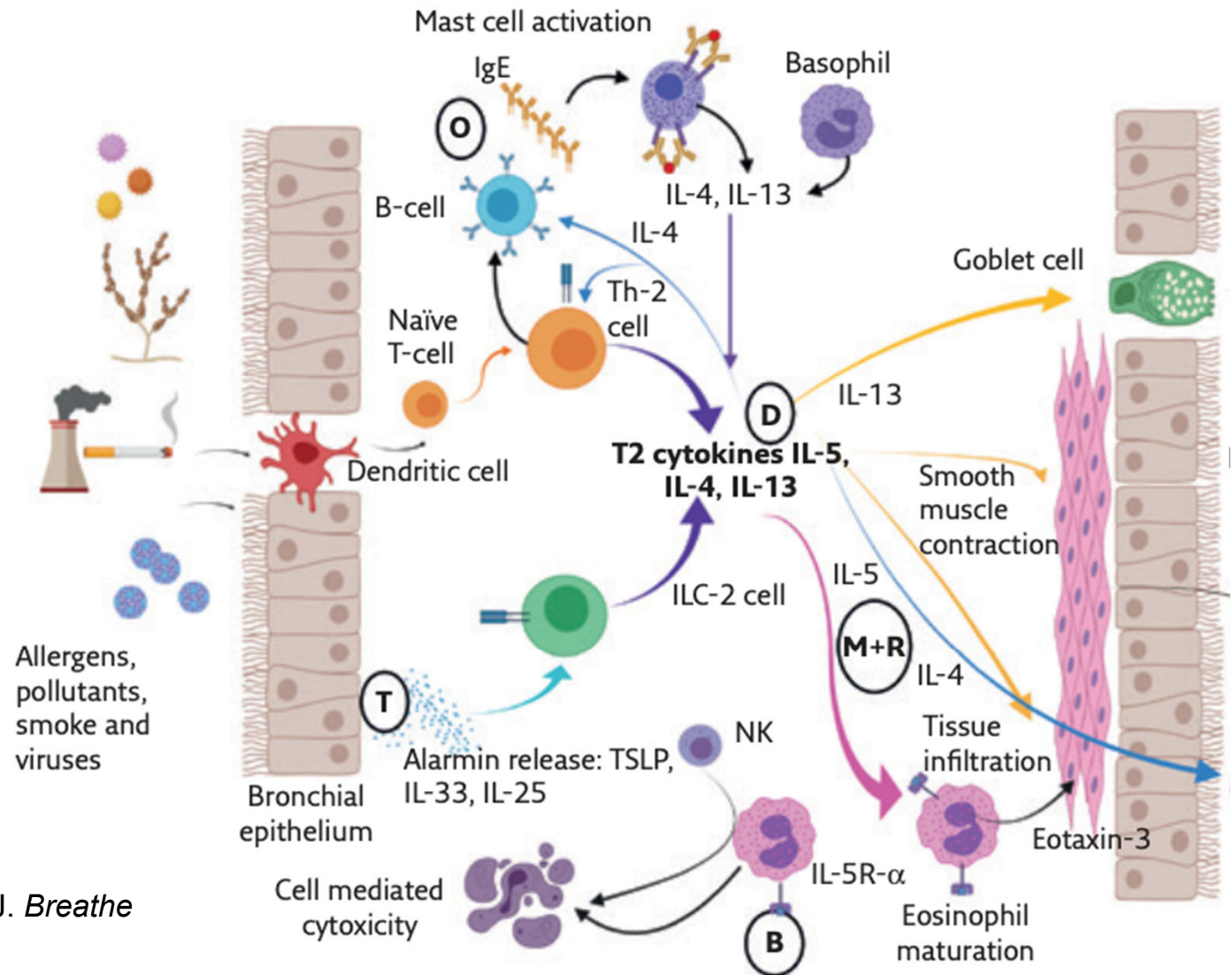
What factors may predict good asthma response to anti-TSLP?

- Higher blood eosinophils +++
- Higher FeNO +++

# Biologic Targets

## Key:

**B:** benralizumab;  
**D:** dupilumab;  
**M+R:** mepolizumab and reslizumab;  
**O:** omalizumab;  
**T:** tezepelumab



Kavanagh JE, Hearn AP, Jackson DJ. *Breathe* 2021; 17: 210144.

## FDA-Approved Biologic Therapeutics for Asthma

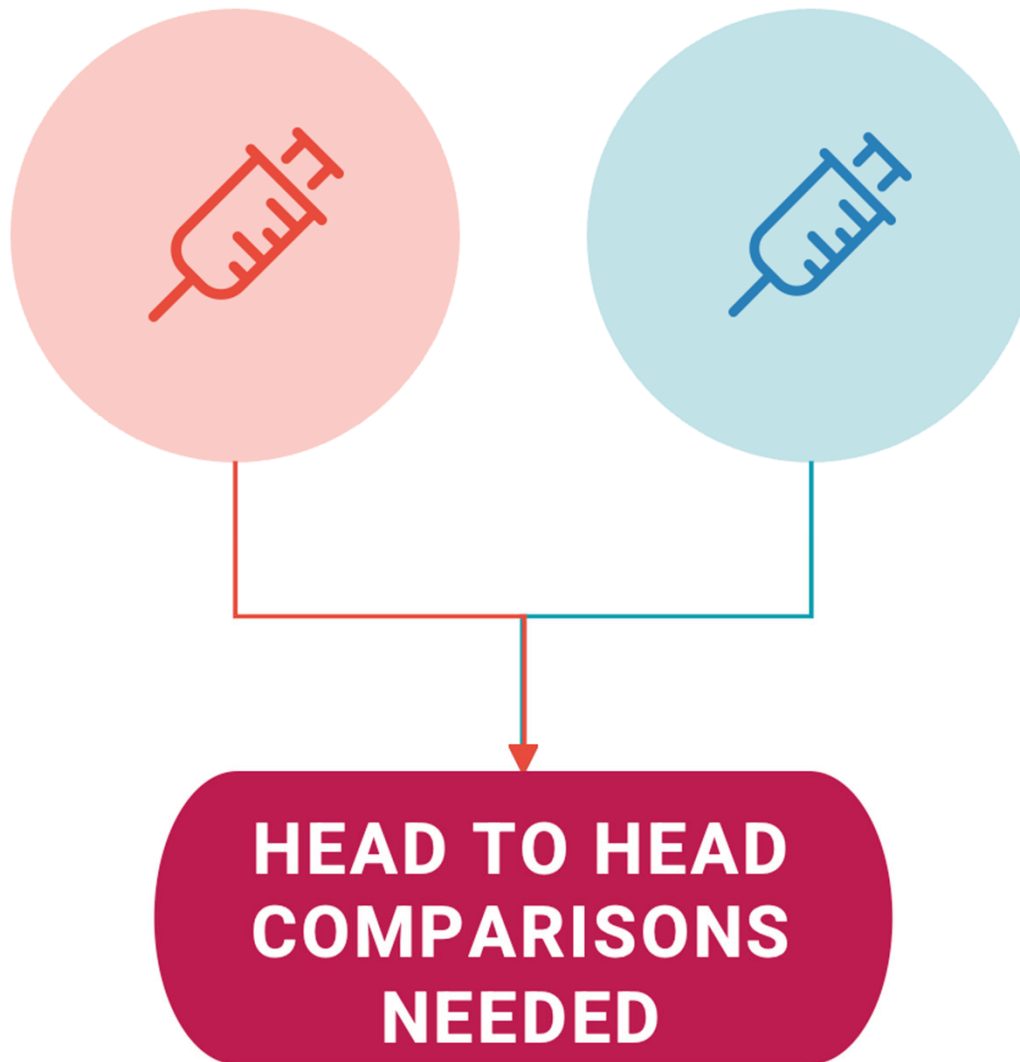
Mechanism of Action	Drug	Approved Indications in US	Age (yrs)	Dosing and Frequency		Route/ Location
Anti-IgE	Omalizumab	2003 Asthma 2016 CSU 2020 CRSwNP 2024 Food Allergy	≥6	75-375 mg (based on weight, IgE level, age)	Q2W Q4W	SC: Clinic/Home
Anti-IL-5	Mepolizumab	2015 Asthma 2019 EGPA 2020 HES 2021 CRSwNP	≥ 6	40 mg (ages 6-11 years) 100 mg (ages ≥ 12 years) 300 mg (EGPA and HES)	Q4W	SC: Clinic/Home
	Reslizumab	2016 Asthma	≥ 18	3.0 mg/kg	Q4W	IV: Clinic/Home/ Infusion Center
Anti-IL-5Rα	Benralizumab	2018 Asthma 2024 EGPA	≥ 12	30mg	Q4W → Q8W	SC: Clinic/Home
Anti-IL-4Rα	Dupilumab	2017 A.D. 2018 Asthma 2019 CRSwNP 2022: EoE, Prurigo Nodularis	≥ 6	100, 200, or 300mg (based on age, weight for pediatric, eosinophilic vs OCS-dependent asthma)	Q2W	SC: Home
Anti-TSLP	Tezepelumab	2021 Asthma	≥ 12	210 mg	Q4W	SC: Clinic/Home



## FDA-Approved Bio

Mechanism of Action	Drug
Anti-IgE	Omalizumab
Anti-IL-5	Mepolizumab
	Reslizumab
Anti-IL-5Rα	Benralizumab
Anti-IL-4Rα	Dupilumab
Anti TSLP	Tezepelumab

Bel EH, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2014;371:1189-1197; Castro M, et al. *Respir Med*. 2015;3:355-366; Castro M, et al. *J Allergy Clin Immunol*. 2020;16:49; Lugogo N, et al. *Clin Ther*. 2010;32:1000-1007; Nopsopon T, et al. *J Allergy and Clin Immunol*.



## Study Results

Increased FEV1	mOCS Reduction
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓

10(2):422-432; Castro M, et al. *Lancet*. 2015;386:1095-1103; Castro M, et al. *All Asthma Clin Immunol*. 2020;16:49; Castro M, et al. *Crit Care Med*. 2021;203:A1197;

UMJSTY^UJ FSI UWJINHYTWX TK WJXUTSXJ

HTR TWGNI NYNX

TWFQ HTWYNHTXYJWTNI ZXJ

XMFWJI IJHNNTS RFPNSL

UWFHYNHFQ HTSXNIJWFYNTSX

## How to Choose?



## Stan: 27-year-old Man

### Asthma history:

- Early mild childhood symptoms, worsened 2 years ago
- Last 12 months: OCS bursts x 5, ED visits x 4, hospital admission x 1, no intubation/mechanical ventilation
- Triggers: URIs, ragweed season, wildfire smoke

### Past Medical History:

- Allergic rhinitis
- Anxiety

### Past Social and Environmental History:

- Non-smoker
- No pets, evaporative cooler, mold/water damage

### Current medication:

- High dose ICS/LABA twice daily
- LAMA daily
- Albuterol/budesonide prn
- Intranasal corticosteroids twice daily
- OCS bursts 4Xs last year

### Current medications:

- High dose ICS/LABA twice daily
- LAMA daily
- Albuterol/budesonide prn
- Intranasal corticosteroids twice daily

### Additional Information:

- Good inhaler technique, taking as prescribed

### Pertinent findings on exam:

- Expiratory wheezing at bilateral bases

**Pre-bronchodilator FEV<sub>1</sub>:** 70% predicted

**Bronchodilator reversibility:** 14%

ACT score: 14

### Biomarkers of Type 2 Inflammation:

- Total serum IgE (IU/mL): 225
- Blood EOS (cells/ $\mu$ L): 350
- FeNO (ppb): 55
- Aeroallergen skin prick testing: + trees, grasses, weeds



## Audience Response Question



After addressing his inhaler technique, through shared decision making, Stan opts to start on a biologic. Which of these would be a correct statement for this case?

- A. Anti-IL-5/5R would target Th1 inflammation
- B. Anti-IgE would target his allergy-driven inflammation
- C. Anti-IL-4R $\alpha$  would target epithelial alarmins
- D. Anti-TSLP would address his poorly controlled atopic dermatitis

## Audience Response Question

Which therapy would you choose for Stan?



- A. Anti-IgE (omalizumab)
- B. Anti-IL-5/5R (mepolizumab, reslizumab, benralizumab)
- C. Anti-IL-4R $\alpha$  (dupilumab)
- D. Anti-TSLP (tezepelumab)

## Case 2: Susan, 57-year-old female patient

### Asthma history:

- Early mild childhood symptoms, worsened 3 years ago
- Last 12 months: OCS bursts x 5, ED visits x 4, hospital admission x 1, no intubation/mechanical ventilation
- Triggers: URIs, wildfire smoke
- Lack of sense of smell and decreased taste

### Past Medical History

- Recurrent sinusitis
- Chronic nonallergic rhinitis

### Past Social and Environmental History:

- Non-smoker
- No pets, evaporative cooler, mold/water damage

### Current medication:

- High dose ICS/LABA twice daily
- LAMA daily
- Albuterol/budesonide prn
- Intranasal corticosteroids twice daily
- OCS bursts 4Xs last year

### Additional Information:

- Good inhaler technique, taking as prescribed

### Pertinent findings on exam:

- Expiratory wheezing at bilateral bases
- Anterior rhinoscopy reveals polyps bilaterally

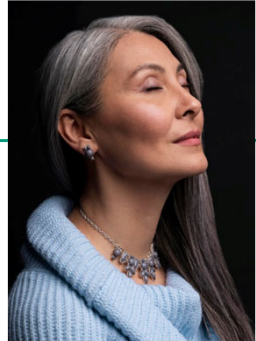
**Pre-bronchodilator FEV<sub>1</sub>:** 70% predicted

**Bronchodilator reversibility:** 14%

**ACT score:** 14

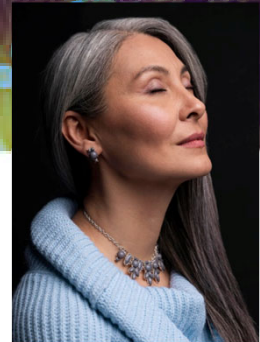
### Biomarkers of Type 2 Inflammation:

- Total serum IgE (IU/mL): 35
- Blood EOS (cells/ $\mu$ L): 800
- FeNO (ppb): 55
- Aeroallergen skin prick testing: negative





## Audience Response Question



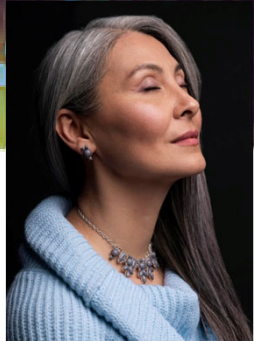
Which biologics have FDA-approved indications for both asthma and nasal polyps?

- A. Omalizumab, tezepelumab, reslizumab
- B. Mepolizumab, reslizumab, benralizumab
- C. Omalizumab, dupilumab, benralizumab
- D. Omalizumab, dupilumab, mepolizumab

## Audience Response Question

Which therapy would you choose for Susan?

- A. Anti-IgE (omalizumab)
- B. Anti-IL-5 (mepolizumab)
- C. Anti-IL-4R $\alpha$  (dupilumab)



# Monitoring Response Considerations



**EXACERBATING OR  
MIMICKING  
COMORBIDITIES**



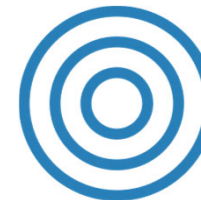
**ADVERSE  
EFFECTS**



**NEUTRALIZING  
ANTIBODIES**



**NOT TAKING AS  
PRESCRIBED**



**WRONG  
TARGET/PATHWAY**

# Multidisciplinary Management

## Nurse

- Comorbidity education
- Medication technique
- Peak flow teaching
- Smoking cessation
- Self-management

## Physical Therapist

- Breath retraining
- Exercise capacity
- Physical activity
- Resistance training

## Speech/language pathologist

- Breath retraining
- Vocal cord dysfunction exercises

## Dietician

- Underweight
- Obesity
- Nutritional impact on asthma

## Pharmacist

- Home med reviews
- Drug interactions
- Biologic teaching

## Respiratory therapist

- Lung function

## Social worker

- Social determinants of health
- Food insecurity
- Transportation, access issues

# Key Points



Goals of management include reduction of impairment and risk, reducing need for systemic corticosteroids



GINA no longer recommends SABA alone therapy due to increased morbidity and mortality associated with regular use/overuse and strong data underlying ICS/formoterol or ICS/albuterol therapy



GINA recommends anti-inflammatory reliever therapy. There is strong data that anti-inflammatory reliever as compared to SABA reliever reduces exacerbation risk across all severities of asthma.



Reviewed growing treatment landscape.



Discussed key factors to consider when selecting biologic to include shared decision-making.

# Questions?



Partnering with National Jewish Health for Customized Educational Programs