

05.01 - Airway pharmacology and treatment

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# Targeted Retreatment of Incompletely Resolved COPD Exacerbations With Ciprofloxacin

COPD, COPD - exacerbations

**A. Ritchie<sup>1</sup>, S. E. Brill<sup>1</sup>, B. H. Vlies<sup>2</sup>, L. J. Finney<sup>1</sup>, J. P. Allinson<sup>1</sup>, L. Alves-Moreira<sup>1</sup>, P. Walker<sup>2</sup>, E. Baker<sup>3</sup>, S. Elkin<sup>4</sup>, P. Mallia<sup>1</sup>, G. C. Donaldson<sup>1</sup>, P. M. A. Calverley<sup>2</sup>, J. Wedzicha<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College, London, UK - London (United Kingdom),

<sup>2</sup>Aintree University Hospital, Liverpool, UK - Liverpool (United Kingdom), <sup>3</sup>St George's University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK - London (United Kingdom), <sup>4</sup>St Mary's Imperial Health Care NHS Trust, London, UK - London (United Kingdom)

**Rationale:** Raised serum C-Reactive Protein (CRP) 14 days after a COPD exacerbation predicts a second exacerbation, presumably due to persistent inflammation or bacterial infection. We examined if a further exacerbation could be prevented by re-treating incompletely resolved COPD exacerbations using Ciprofloxacin.

**Methods:** This multi-centre randomized double-blind placebo-controlled study assessed retreatment with twice daily oral ciprofloxacin 500mg vs placebo for 7 days in patients whose symptoms and/or CRP had not normalised (<8mg/L) following an index exacerbation 10-14 days earlier. The primary outcome was the time to next exacerbation within a 90-day period.

**Results:** Of 826 COPD patients screened at 4 centres, 144 eligible participants with incomplete recovery at day 12-16 post exacerbation were randomised to ciprofloxacin (n=72) or placebo (n=72). Patients had baseline mean age 69.0, 63.2% male, FEV1 49.5% predicted and CAT score 20.5.

Median time to the next exacerbation was 32.5 days (IQR 13-50) in the placebo arm and 34 days (IQR 17-62) in the treatment arm. After pre-specified adjustments for previous exacerbations and site there were no significant differences between the groups (p=0.76) (fig 1). No significant differences were seen in CAT, SGRQ or lung function between treatment groups.

**Conclusion:** In patients with incomplete recovery after a treated COPD exacerbation, an additional course of ciprofloxacin provided no additional benefit relative to placebo.

