

Sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of patients with asthma who were prescribed ≥ 3 SABA canisters/year in the SABINA International study

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Introduction: The SABA use IN Asthma (SABINA) International cross-sectional study reported that 38% of 8,351 patients were prescribed ≥ 3 SABA canisters/year (overprescription).

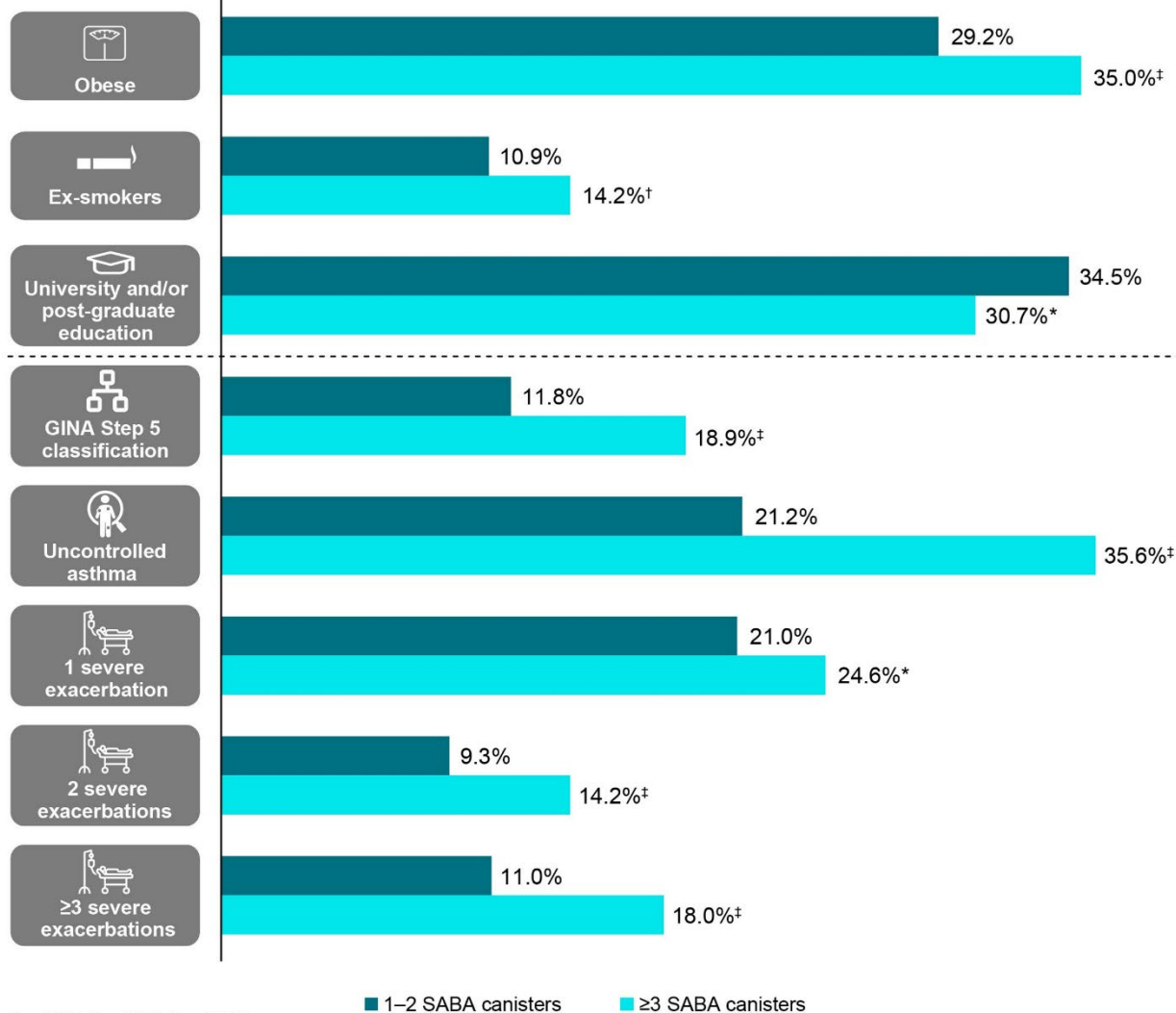
Aim: This univariate post hoc analysis compares the sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of patients overprescribed SABA with those prescribed 1–2 canisters/year.

Methods: In patients aged ≥ 12 years with asthma, ≥ 3 physician consultations, and medical records containing data for ≥ 12 months before the study visit, multiple characteristics were compared using Chi-square or Kruskal-Wallis tests.

Results: Compared with patients prescribed 1–2 SABA canisters/year, a significantly higher percentage of those prescribed ≥ 3 SABA were obese (35.0% vs 29.2%) and ex-smokers (14.2% vs 10.9%), with a lower percentage receiving university or post-graduate education (30.7% vs 34.5%; Figure). A significantly higher percentage of patients prescribed ≥ 3 vs 1–2 SABA canisters/year were at Global Initiative for Asthma treatment Step 5 (18.9% vs 11.8%), classified with uncontrolled asthma (35.6% vs 21.2%) and reported 1 (24.6% vs 21.0%), 2 (14.2% vs 9.3%) or ≥ 3 severe asthma exacerbations (18.0% vs 11.0%).

Conclusion: The characteristics of patients overprescribed SABA will aid physicians in identifying and targeting those at risk of SABA overuse, thereby improving asthma outcomes globally.

Figure: Differences in sociodemographic and clinical characteristics between patients prescribed 1–2 vs ≥3 SABA canisters/year in the SABINA International study population



*p<0.05; [†]p<0.01; [‡]p<0.001

GINA, Global Initiative for Asthma; SABA, short-acting β₂ agonist; SABINA, SABA use IN Asthma

Overall, 1,976 patients were prescribed 1–2 SABA canisters and 3,095 were prescribed ≥3 SABA canisters in the 12 months before the study visit.

Chi-square (for categorical data) and Kruskal-Wallis (for numerical data) tests are used for comparison of the two groups and Pearson's Chi-square test for post hoc pairwise comparisons.