



Poster Group 1 - Allergen Specific Immunotherapy V - Clinical Aspects II

731 - Efficacious management of house dust mite allergy by three years of specific immunotherapy with allergen extract

Kettner, J; Narkus, A; Meyer, H; Cromwell, O

Allergopharma Joachim Ganzer KG, Research & Development, Reinbek, Germany

**Background:** Specific immunotherapy (SIT) using standardised allergen extracts has become an established treatment for seasonal and perennial allergies. In house dust mite allergy, however, information on its long-term efficacy is still limited. The WHO-recommendation is that SIT with house dust mite allergen extracts should be performed with perennial injections over 3 years. During the initial double-blind phase this study has demonstrated clinically relevant and statistically significant improvements compared to placebo: 66.7% of the actively treated patients (placebo 32.3%) responded with an improvement of at least 40 % ( $p=0.0118$ ) in their symptom medication score (SMS).

**Methods:** The 2-year double-blind placebo-controlled trial including patients suffering from symptoms of rhinoconjunctivitis with or without asthma (GINA I or II) assessed by a symptom medication score (SMS) was followed up by a 1 year open-label active treatment phase involving 64 patients. Specific immunotherapy with a *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus* extract adsorbed to aluminium hydroxide consisted of weekly up-dosing and monthly maintenance injections.

**Results:** Specific immunotherapy with the house dust mite depot allergen extract resulted in a large and clinically relevant reduction in SMS with a further improvement from a median AUC after 2 years -73.5 points to -91.0 points after the third year. Further secondary analyses after the double blind phase confirmed these findings: active treatment was superior to placebo for overall symptoms ( $p=0.0145$ ), nose and eye symptoms ( $p=0.0119$ ) as well as for the medication score ( $p=0.0381$ ). Secondary analyses after the third year of open active treatment further substantiated the results obtained for primary efficacy parameter. Rates and types of adverse events were in full accordance with the known good safety profile of the study drug.

**Conclusion:** The study confirms that injection immunotherapy with a house dust mite allergen depot extract is clinically efficacious and well tolerated in the management of house dust mite allergy with or without asthma. Further improvements can be achieved by a third year of treatment.

