
F O R E W O R D

In previous clinical trials, inhaled hypertonic saline solution was shown to improve lung function and decrease the frequency of exacerbations both in adults and older children with Cystic Fibrosis and is now recommended for individuals older than 6 years with moderate benefit, grade of recommendation B. Side effects such as cough, narrowing of airways and saltiness may decrease its tolerability, undermining treatment adherence. Recently the combination of HS solution (7%) with hyaluronan (0,1%) (HSHA) has proved to increase acceptability in the short and in the long-term. By a questionnaire, representative of the majority of Italian CF Centers, data have been registered on indications of treatment, as well as on administration schedule and tolerability assessment of HS and HSHA.

Two updated clinical reports have added some information on the effects of the combination treatment on clinical and lung functional outcomes; moreover, psychological factors involved in adherence of aerosol therapy in CF have been discussed. The active role of intact nebulized high molecular weight HA (HMWHA) in the maintenance of immune tolerance, as demonstrated also by preliminary results in experimental mouse models, pave the way for the implementation of nebulized HA as a putatively safe, anti-inflammatory medical device for the treatment of patients with CF.

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