

# La terapia di associazione nell'asma: i $\beta_2$ long-acting

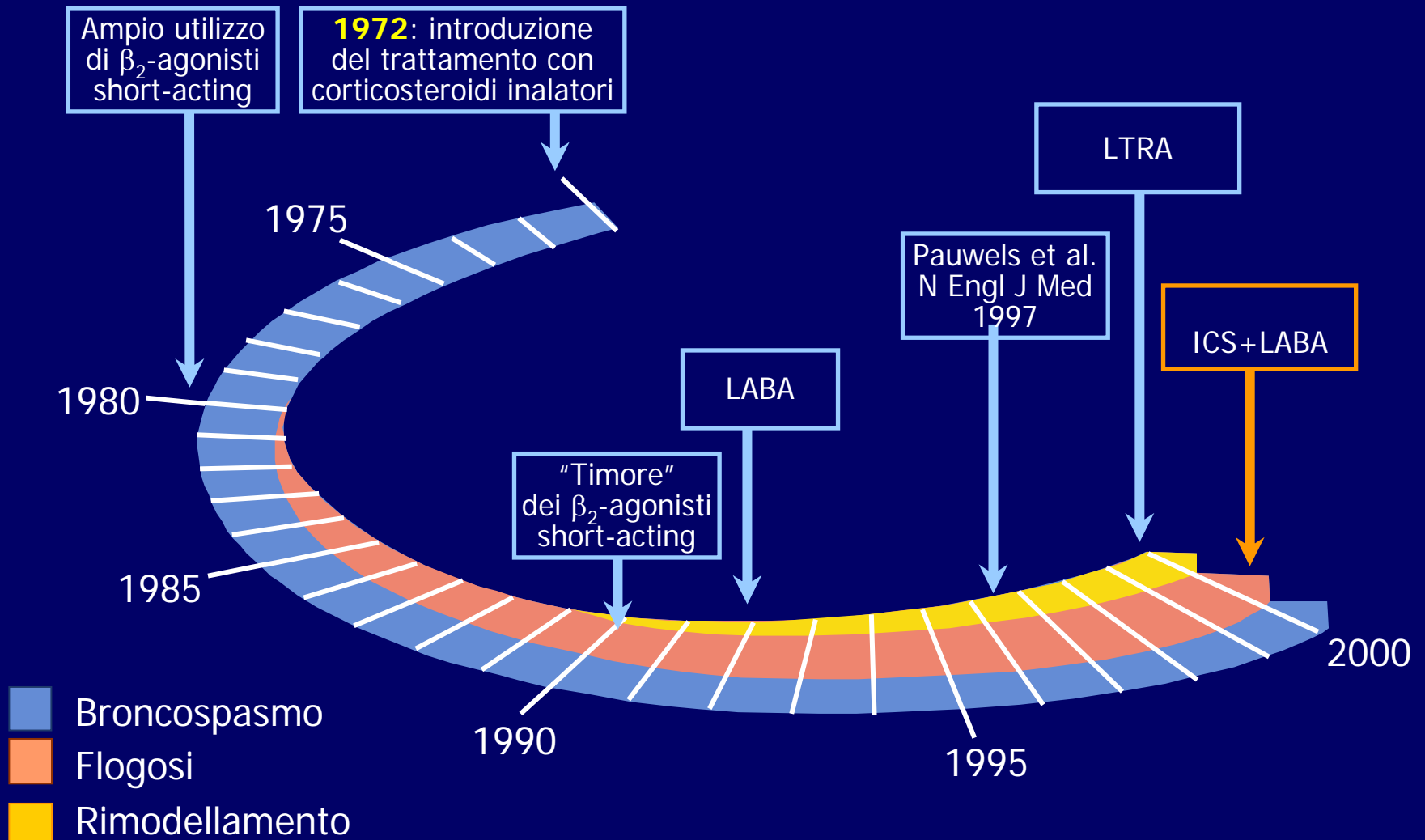
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Ospedale del Bambino  
Padova



1594

Società Italiana di Pediatria  
Preventiva e Sociale

# Evoluzione della terapia dell'asma



**G**lobal

**I**Nitiative for

**A**Sthma



Linee-Guida Italiane – Aggiornamento **2004**

[www.ginasma.it](http://www.ginasma.it)



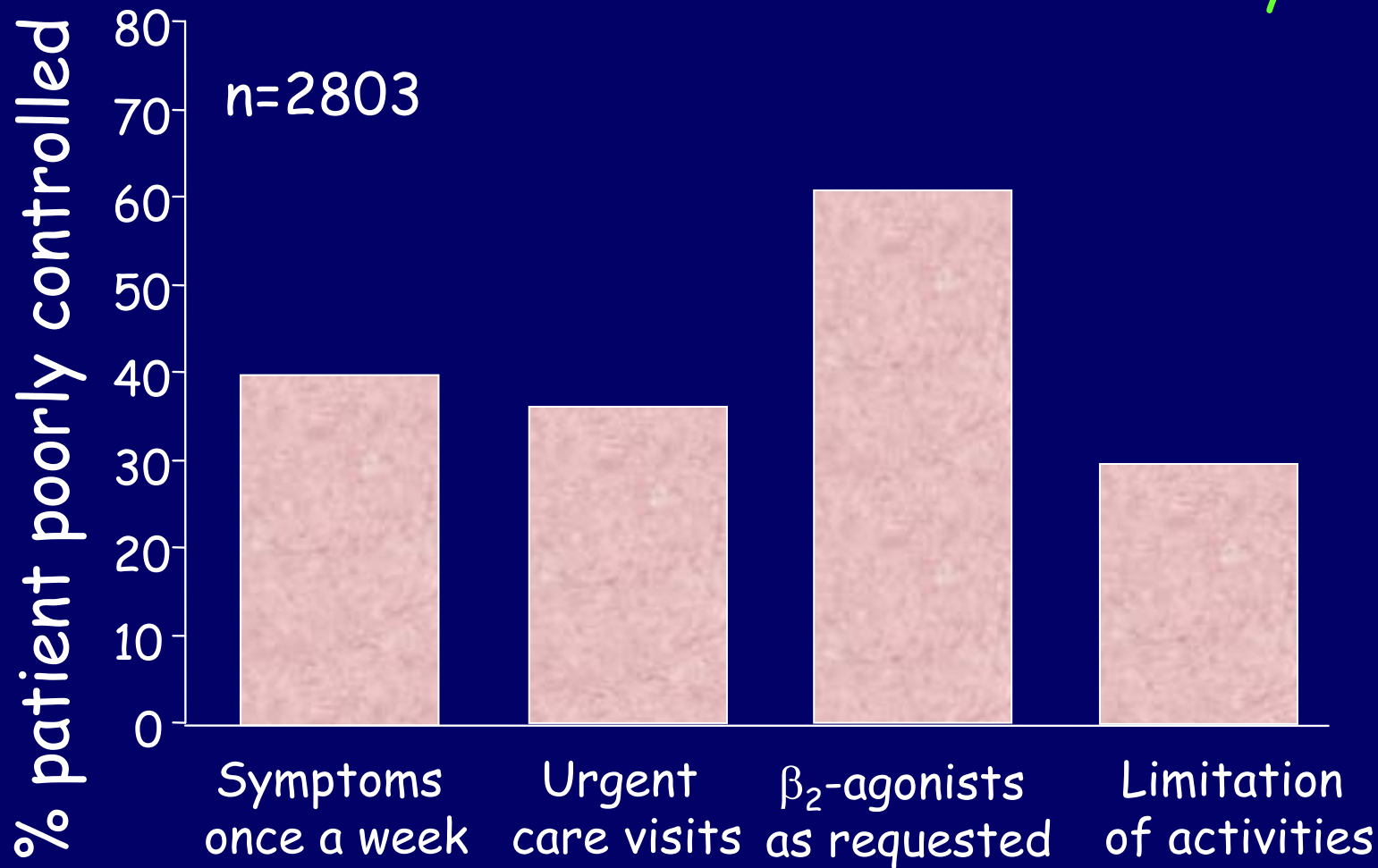
## Obiettivi della gestione a lungo termine

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- Raggiungere e mantenere il controllo dei sintomi
- **Prevenire le riacutizzazioni dell' asma**
- Mantenere la funzione respiratoria il più vicina possibile ai livelli normali
- Mantenere i normali livelli di attività, incluso l'attività fisica
- .....

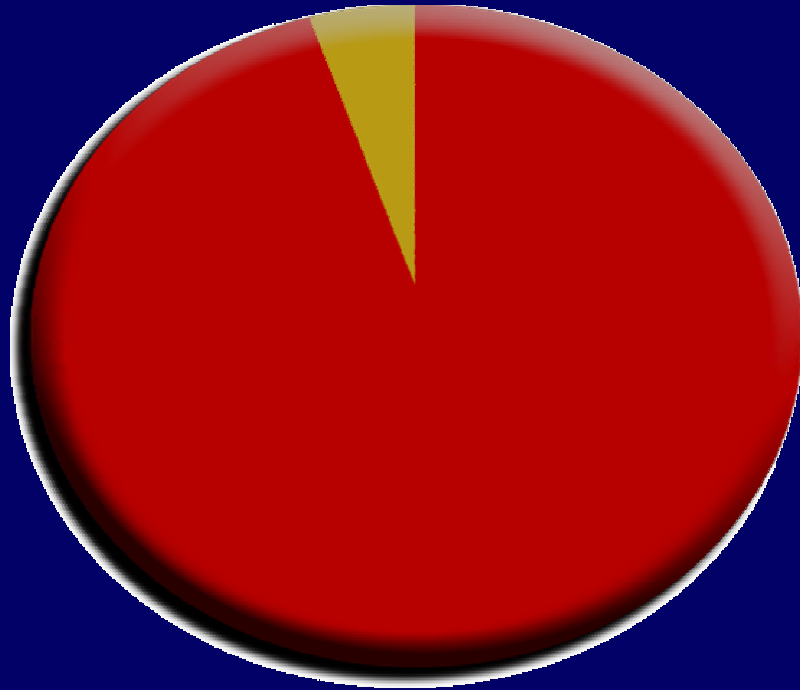
# Current level of asthma control in Europe

AIRE study ERJ 2000



# AIRE study

Rabe et al ERJ 2000



Only **5.8%** of children met all the GINA criteria for asthma control

n=2803 asthmatics  
(753 children)

Despite the availability of highly effective therapies, many patients with asthma continue to suffer symptoms and exacerbations with considerable disruption to their daily life

P.J. Barnes AJRCCM 2005



# Farmaci anti-asma raccomandati

## Livello 1: Bambini Intermittente

Gravità	Farmaci di fondo giornalieri	Altre opzioni
Livello 1: <b>Intermittente</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nessuno</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nessuno</li></ul>



- Sintomi < 1 volta/settimana
- Sintomi notte non più di 2 volte/mese
- FEV1 > 80%

Farmaci sintomatici:  
 $\beta_2$ -agonisti per via inalatoria  
ad azione rapida al bisogno

GINA Italia 2004

# Asma intermittente

- Sintomi < 1 volta/settimana
- Sintomi di notte non piu' di 2 volte/mese
- FEV1 > 80%



Quindi un bambino con sintomi di asma **3 volte al mese** va inquadrato come asma intermittente?

**Solo  $\beta_2$ -agonisti al bisogno?**



# Farmaci anti-asma raccomandati

## Bambini      Persistente Lieve

Gravità	Farmaci di fondo giornalieri	Altre opzioni (ordine di efficacia)
Livello 2: <b>Persistente Lieve</b>	• <b>Glucocorticoidi</b> per via inalatoria a <b>basso dosaggio</b>	• Antileucotrienici, <i>oppure</i> • Cromoni



- Sintomi > 1 volta settimana
- Riacutizzaz. che disturbano il sonno e la normale attività
- Sintomi notte > 2 v/mese
- FEV<sub>1</sub> > 80%

**GINA Italia 2004**

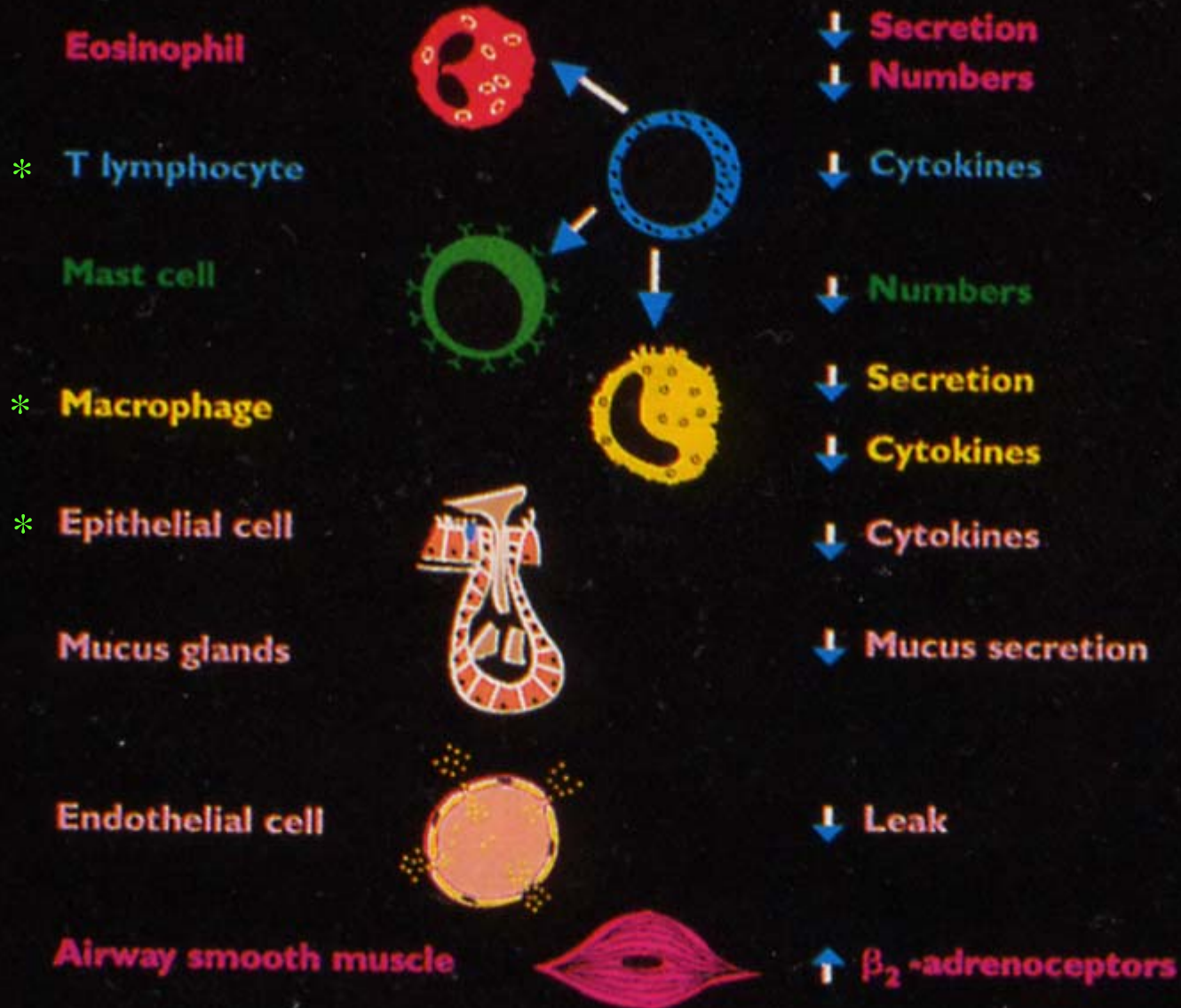


## Stabilire piani per il trattamento a lungo termine dell'asma

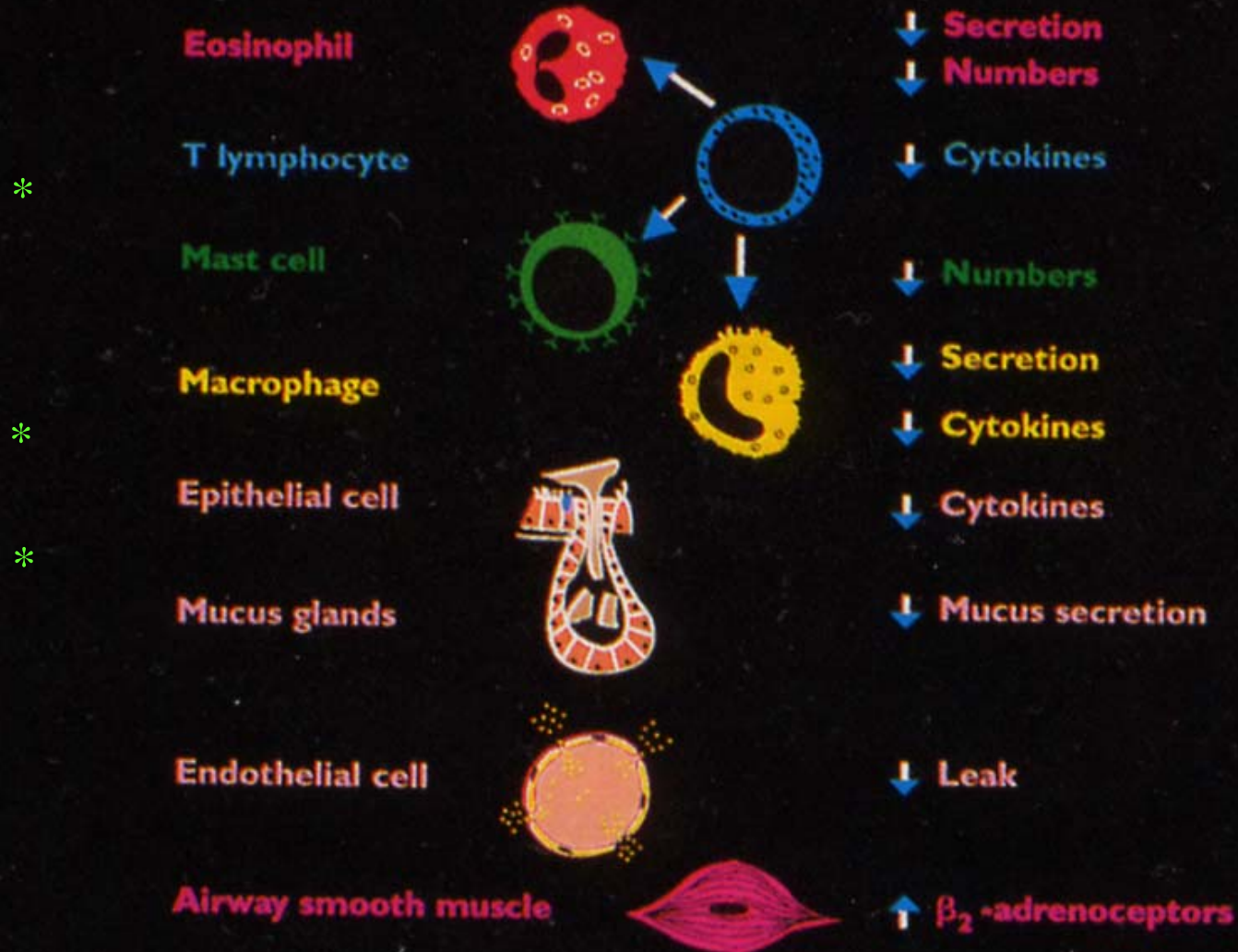
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- Ad oggi, i **glucocorticosteroidi inalatori** sono i più efficaci farmaci per il controllo dell'asma e sono raccomandati per l'asma persistente ad ogni livello di gravità

# Actions of Steroids in Asthma

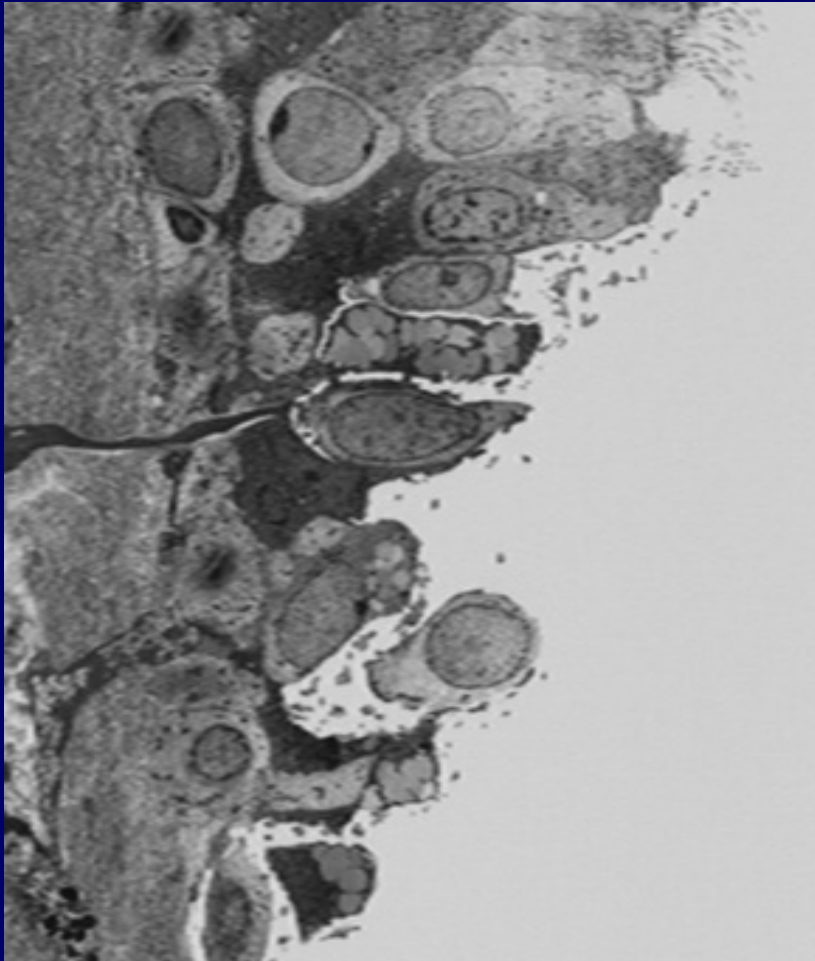


# Actions of Steroids in Asthma



Su quali cellule non sono attivi?

# Epithelial repair following steroid treatment



**Before**



**After**

# AIRE study

Rabe et al ERJ 2000



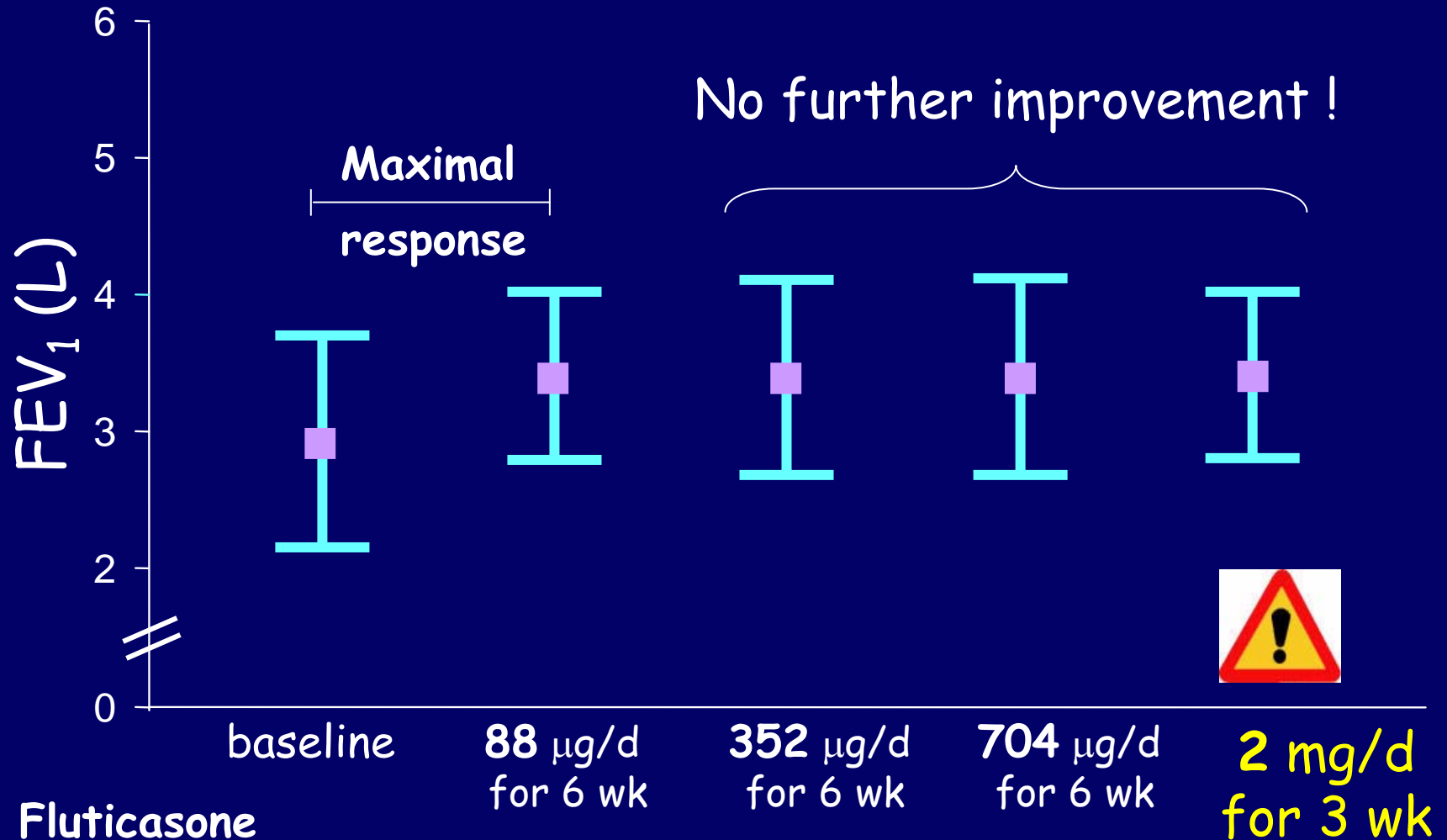
n=2803 asthmatics  
(753 children)

Only **5.8%** of children met all the GINA criteria for asthma control

Only **30%** of children with persistent asthma used ICS

# INCREASING DOSE OF FLUTICASONE DOES NOT IMPROVE FEV<sub>1</sub>

*Szeffler JACI 2002;109:410*





# Dosaggio giornaliero comparativo stimato degli steroidi inalatori - bambini

2004

Farmaco	Dose bassa	Dose media	Dose elevata
Beclometasone	<b>CFC 100-250 µg</b> <b>HFA 50-200 µg</b>	250-500 µg 200-400 µg	>500 µg >400 µg
Budesonide	<b>DPI 100-200 µg</b>	200-600 µg	>600 µg
Fluticasone propionato	<b>100-200 µg</b>	200-400 µg	>400 µg
Flunisolide	<b>500-750 µg</b>	1000-1250 µg	>1250 µg

HFA=hydrofluoroalkane

CFC=chlorofluorocarbon



# Dosaggio giornaliero comparativo stimato degli steroidi inalatori - bambini

2002

Farmaco	Dose bassa	Dose media	Dose elevata
Beclometasone dipropionato	<b>100-400 <math>\mu\text{g}</math></b>	400-800 $\mu\text{g}$	>800 $\mu\text{g}$
Budesonide	<b>100-400 <math>\mu\text{g}</math></b>	400-800 $\mu\text{g}$	>800 $\mu\text{g}$
Fluticasone propionato	<b>50-200 <math>\mu\text{g}</math></b>	200-400 $\mu\text{g}$	>400 $\mu\text{g}$
Flunisolide	<b>500-750 <math>\mu\text{g}</math></b>	1000-1250 $\mu\text{g}$	>1250 $\mu\text{g}$



# Scelta del dispositivo per inalazione nel bambino

Età	Dispositivo da preferire	Dispositivo alternativo
<b>Sotto i 4 anni</b>	<b>MDI* con camera di espansione e maschera facciale</b>	<b>Nebulizzatore con maschera</b>
<b>4 - 6 anni</b>	<b>MDI* con camera di espansione con boccaglio o maschera facciale</b>	<b>Nebulizzatore con maschera o boccaglio</b>

**\*MDI:** aerosol in bombolette pressurizzate

**Prescrivere i dispositivi solo dopo aver adeguatamente educato bambini e genitori e verificare la tecnica di inalazione con regolarità**

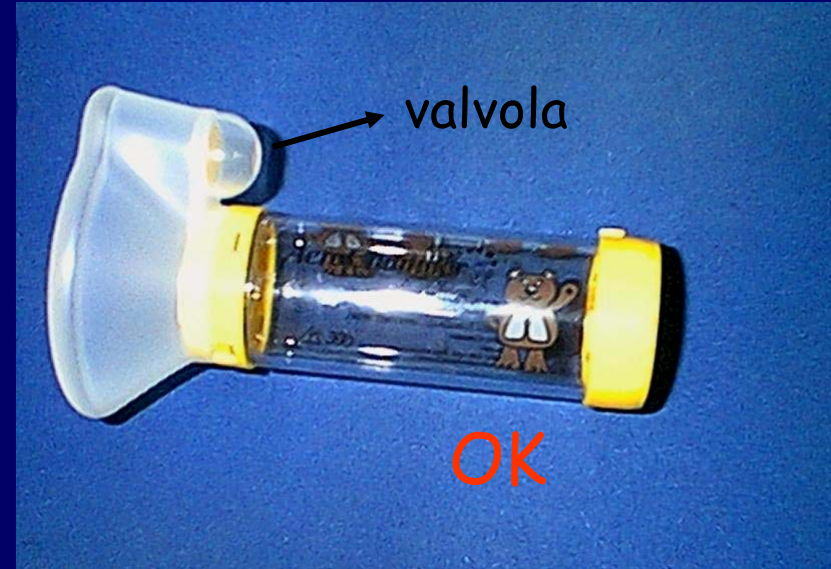


# BAMBINI sotto ai 4-5 ANNI

Babyhaler (PubM=27)



Aerochamber (PubM=38)



Fluspacer (PubM=0)

OK dopo i 6 anni



# Erogatore spray



# Erogatori a polvere secca



# Erogatori a polvere secca



Dopo i 6-7 anni !

Le domande per valutare se l'asma è in buon controllo

**SONO STATI RAGGIUNTI GLI OBBIETTIVI  
DI UN BUON CONTROLLO?**

- 1) Il bambino si è svegliato per asma durante la notte?
- 2) Quante volte ha usato salbutamolo nelle ultime 3 settimane?
- 3) Ha presentato “fischio” o mancanza di respiro?
- 4) Ha partecipato senza problemi alle normali attività fisiche o sportive?



# Farmaci anti-asma raccomandati Bambini Persistente moderato

Gravità	Farmaci di fondo giornalieri	Altre opzioni
Livello 3: <b>Persistent Moderata</b>  	<b>Glucocorticoidi</b> per via inalatoria a <b>dose media</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Glucocorticoidi</b> per via inalatoria a <b>basso</b> (medio) dosaggio <b>più <math>\beta_2</math>-agonisti long-acting</b> (&gt; 4 anni), <i>oppure</i></li><li>• <b>Glucocorticoidi</b> per via inalatoria a <b>basso</b> (medio) dosaggio <b>più antileucotrienici</b> (&gt; 6 mesi)</li></ul>

- sintomi giornalieri
- Riacutizzaz. che disturbano il sonno e la normale attività
- Sintomi notte > 1 v/settimana
- Uso giornaliero di beta-2
- FEV<sub>1</sub> 60- 80% pred

Dinamicità

GINA Italia 2004



# Combination therapy in children (moderate persistent asthma)

long-acting  $\beta_2$  -agonists

+

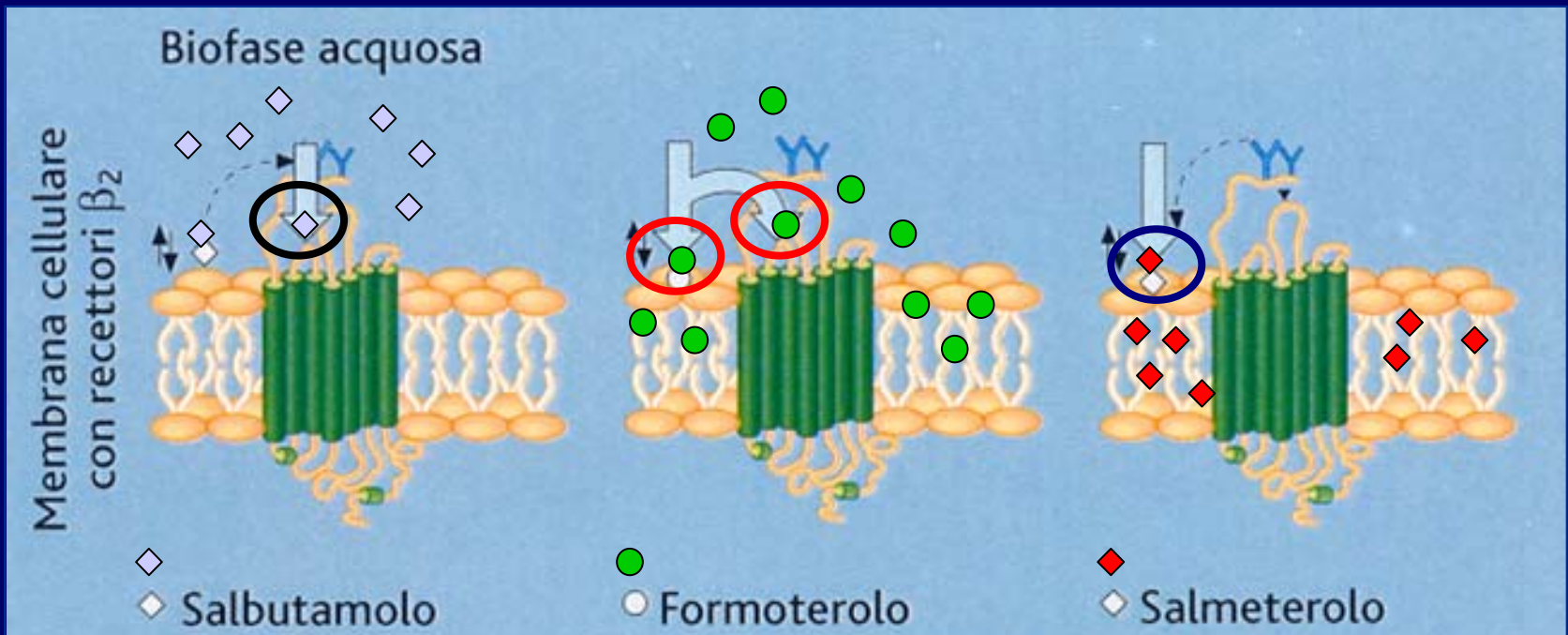
low (medium) doses of ICS

OR

Low (medium) doses of ICS

+

leukotriene modifier



- hydrophilic
- onset 3'
- max action 15'
- duration 4-5 h

- lipophilic ++
- onset action 3'
- max 10-15'
- duration > 12h
- full agonist
- dose-dependent effect

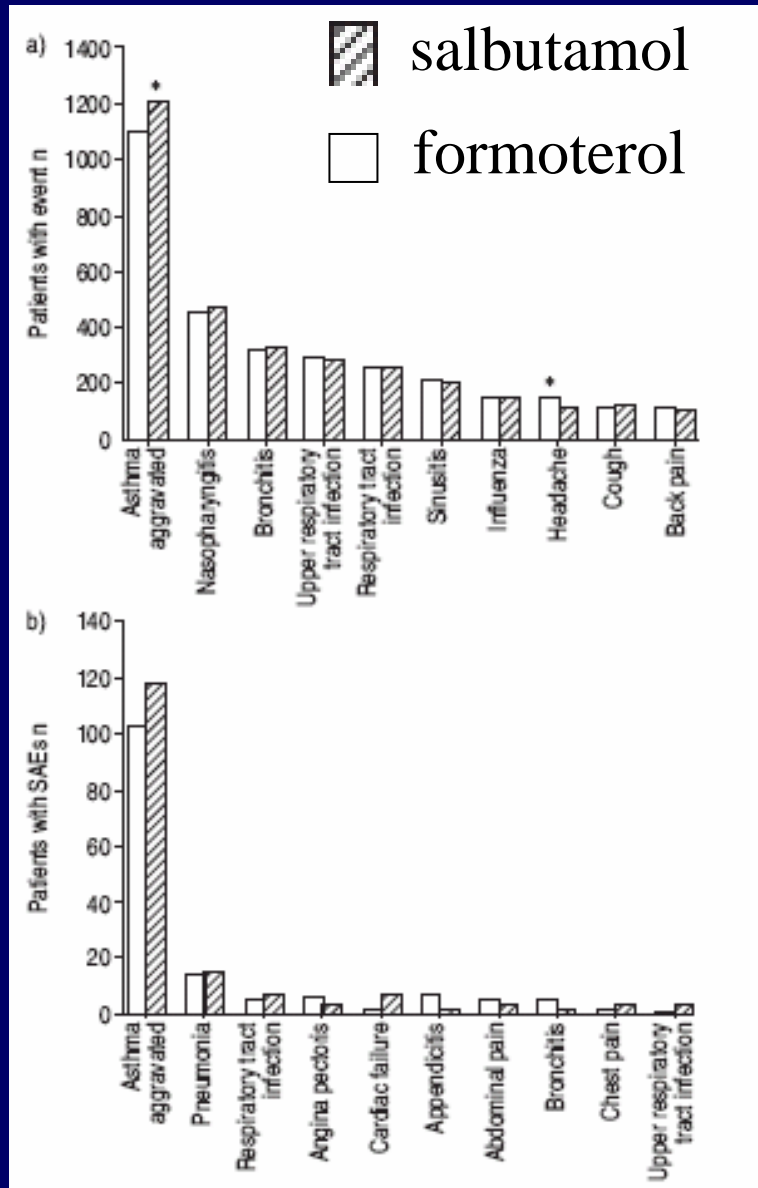
- lipophilic +++++
- onset action 15'
- max 30'
- duration > 12 h
- partial agonist
- no dose-depend effect over 50 mcg

# Formoterol as reliever medication in asthma

n= 18124 subjects  
age 5-91 years  
6 months study

Formoterol as needed has a similar safety profile to salbutamol with fewer asthma exacerbation

FDA approved as rescue medication



Pauwels ERJ 2003; 22: 787-794

The **ultra** long-acting  $\beta_2$ -agonist

**Indacaterol**

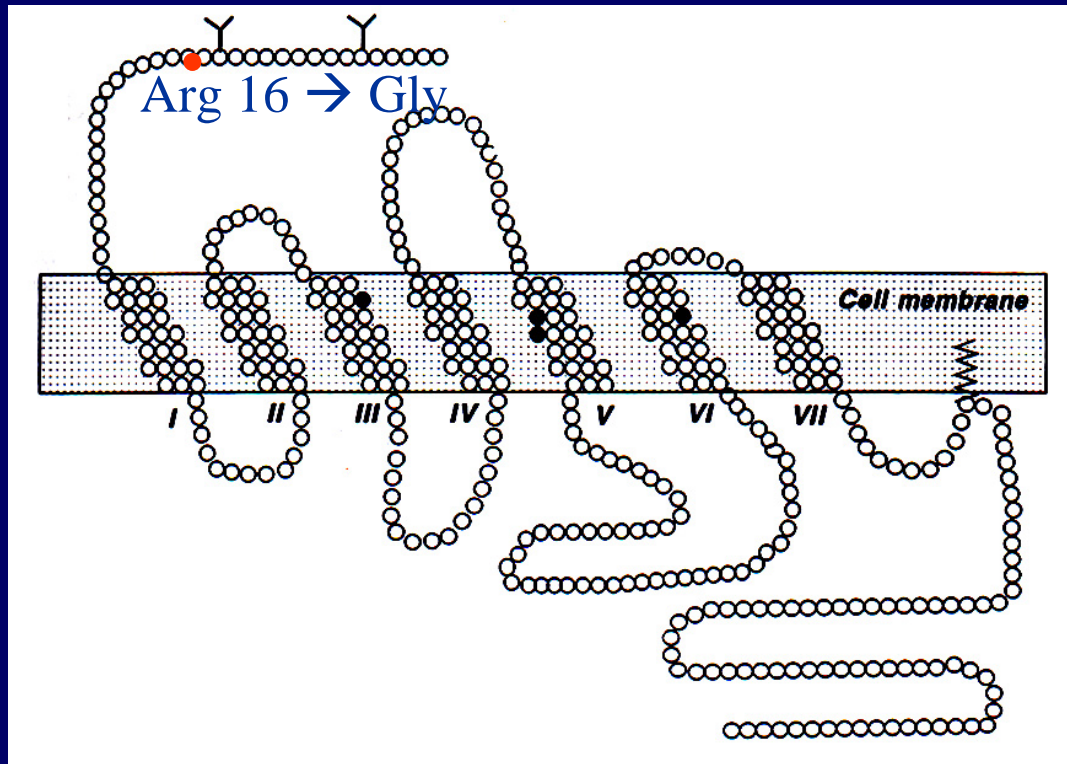
the first one-daily  $\beta_2$ -agonist with  
**24-hour** bronchodilation

ERS Annual Congress 2005

# $\beta_2$ -adrenergic receptor polymorphism is asthma

Israel Lancet 2004

## HUMAN $\beta_2$ ADRENOCEPTOR STRUCTURE



Arg 16 allele: poorer long-term response to salbutamol

# Development of tolerance to $\beta_2$ -agonists

Daily treatment with SABA and LABA may induce **tolerance**

- 1) possible reduction in the bronchodilation to short-acting  $\beta_2$  +-
- 2) **reduction in the protective effect** against bronchial challenge i.e. methacholine, exercise ++

This is not associated with loss of asthma control  
(Boulet AJRCCM 2000)

May have clinical implication with EIA

# Development of tolerance to $\beta_2$ -agonists

Daily treatment with SABA and LABA may induce **tolerance**

- 1) possible reduction in the bronchodilation to short-acting  $\beta_2$  +-
- 2) **reduction in the protective effect** against bronchial challenge i.e. methacholine, exercise\* ++

\* may have clinical implication with EIA

Monotherapy with long-acting  $\beta_2$ -agonists  
is not recommended

Patients taking salmeterol without ICS had  
an increased risk of asthma-related death

FDA warning 2003

# Anti-inflammatory effects of LABA in asthma

Salmeterol reduces **neutrophils** in bronchial biopsies  
Jeffrey ERJ 2002

Salmeterol reduced **IL-8** in BAL  
Reid ERJ 2003

Formoterol reduces **neutrophils** in sputum  
Maneechotesuwan Chest 2005

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graph TD; A([COMBINATION THERAPY ICS + LABA]) --> B[IN SEPARATE INHALERS (CONCURRENT)]; A --> C[IN A SINGLE INHALER (COMBINATION)];
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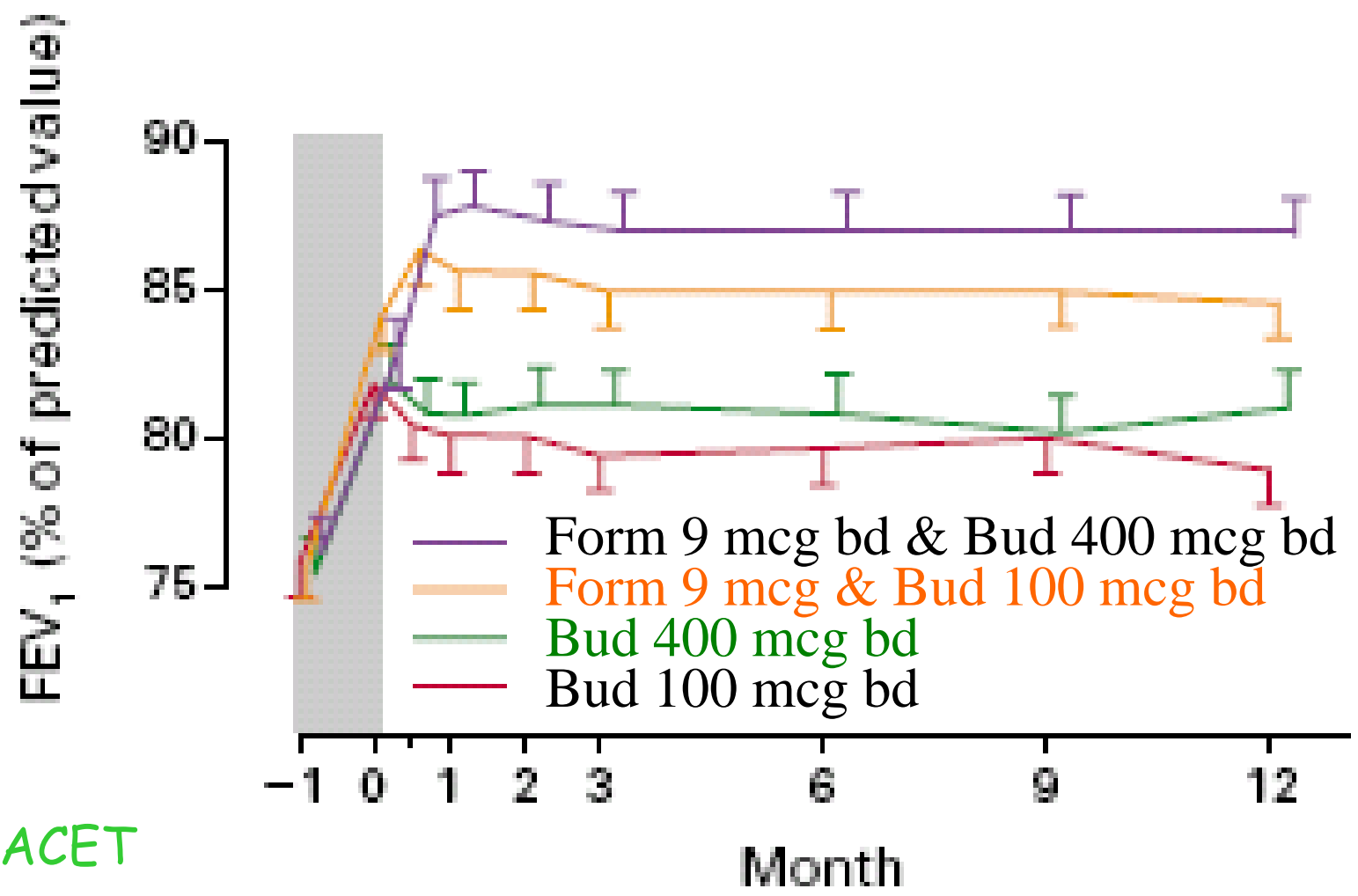
COMBINATION  
THERAPY  
ICS + LABA

IN SEPARATE INHALERS  
(CONCURRENT)

IN A SINGLE INHALER  
(COMBINATION)

## Combination therapy with ICS and LABA in separate inhalers (CONCURRENT)

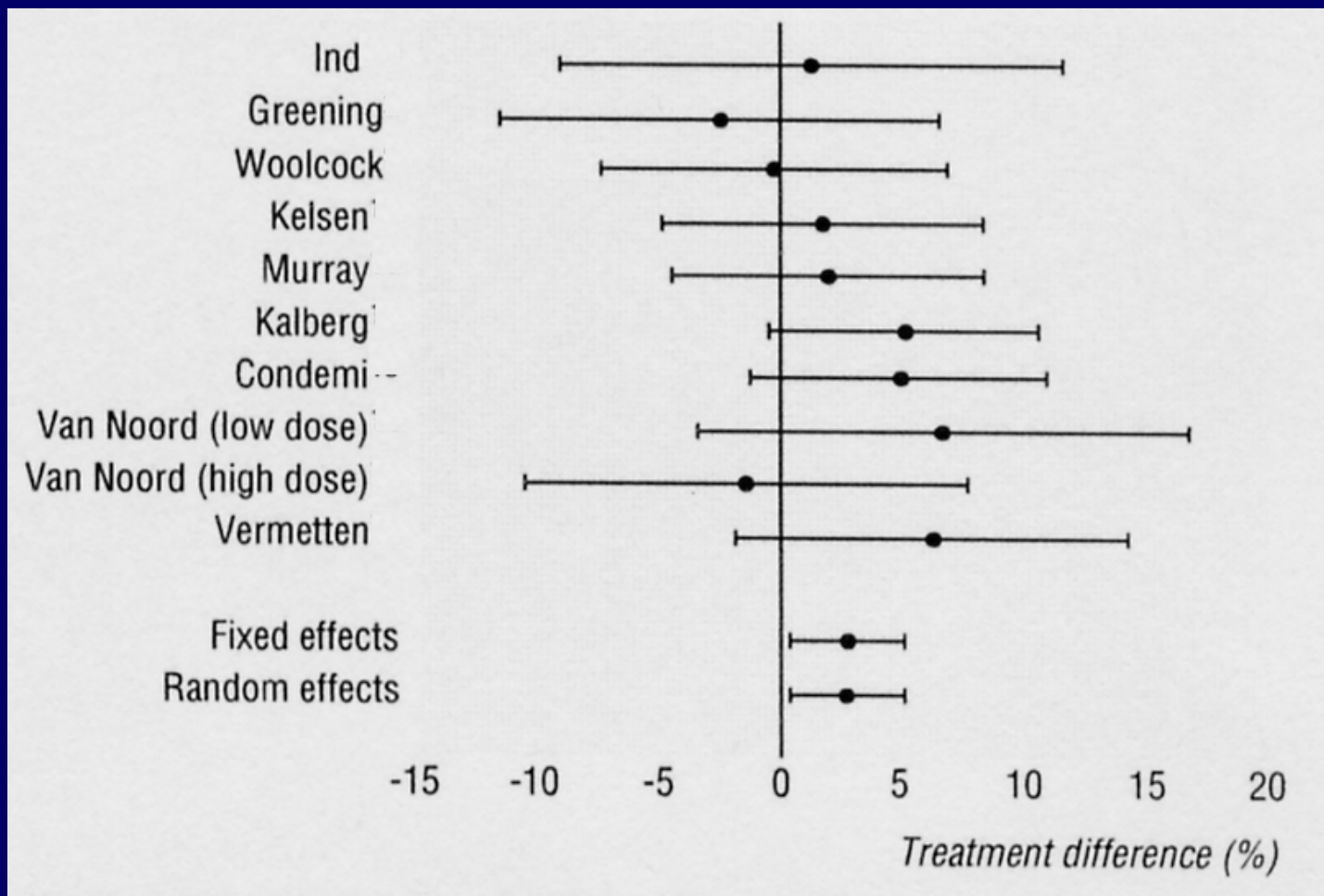
- Controls asthma at lower doses of ICS compared to ICS alone (X 2-4)
- Improves lung function to a greater degree than higher dose of ICS
- Reduces risk of severe exacerbation
- May mask underlying airway inflammation?



FACET

# A meta-analysis of increasing inhaled steroids or adding salmeterol on symptomatic asthma (MIASMA)

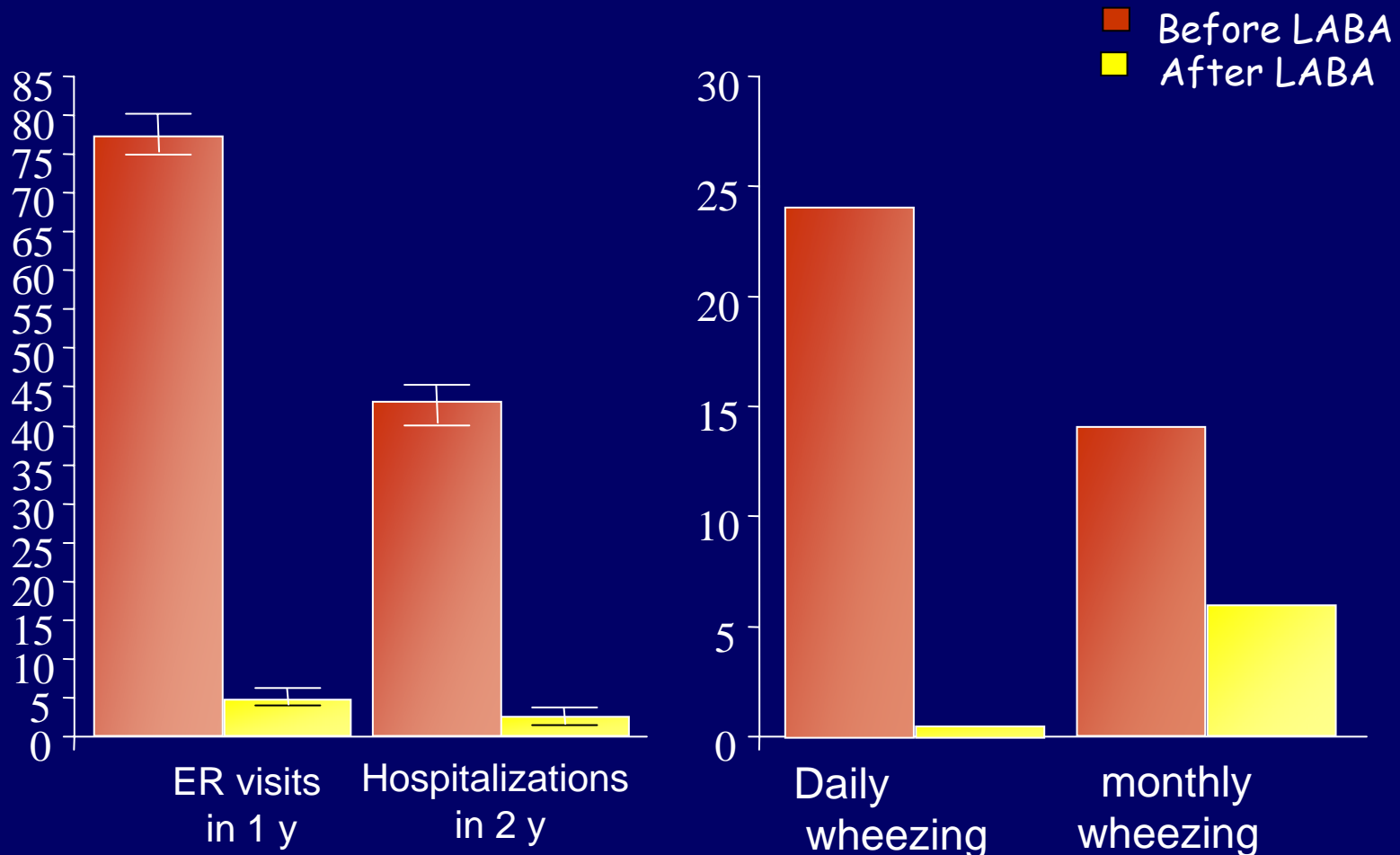
Shrewsbury BMJ 2000



Difference in % of patients with one or more exacerbation

# Efficacy and safety of ICS in combination with LABA in asthmatic children under age 5

Sekhsaria J Asthma 2004; 41:575-82



```
graph TD; A([COMBINATION THERAPY ICS + LABA]) --> B[IN SEPARATE INHALERS (CONCURRENT)]; A --> C[IN A SINGLE INHALER (COMBINATION)];
```

COMBINATION  
THERAPY  
ICS + LABA

IN SEPARATE INHALERS  
(CONCURRENT)

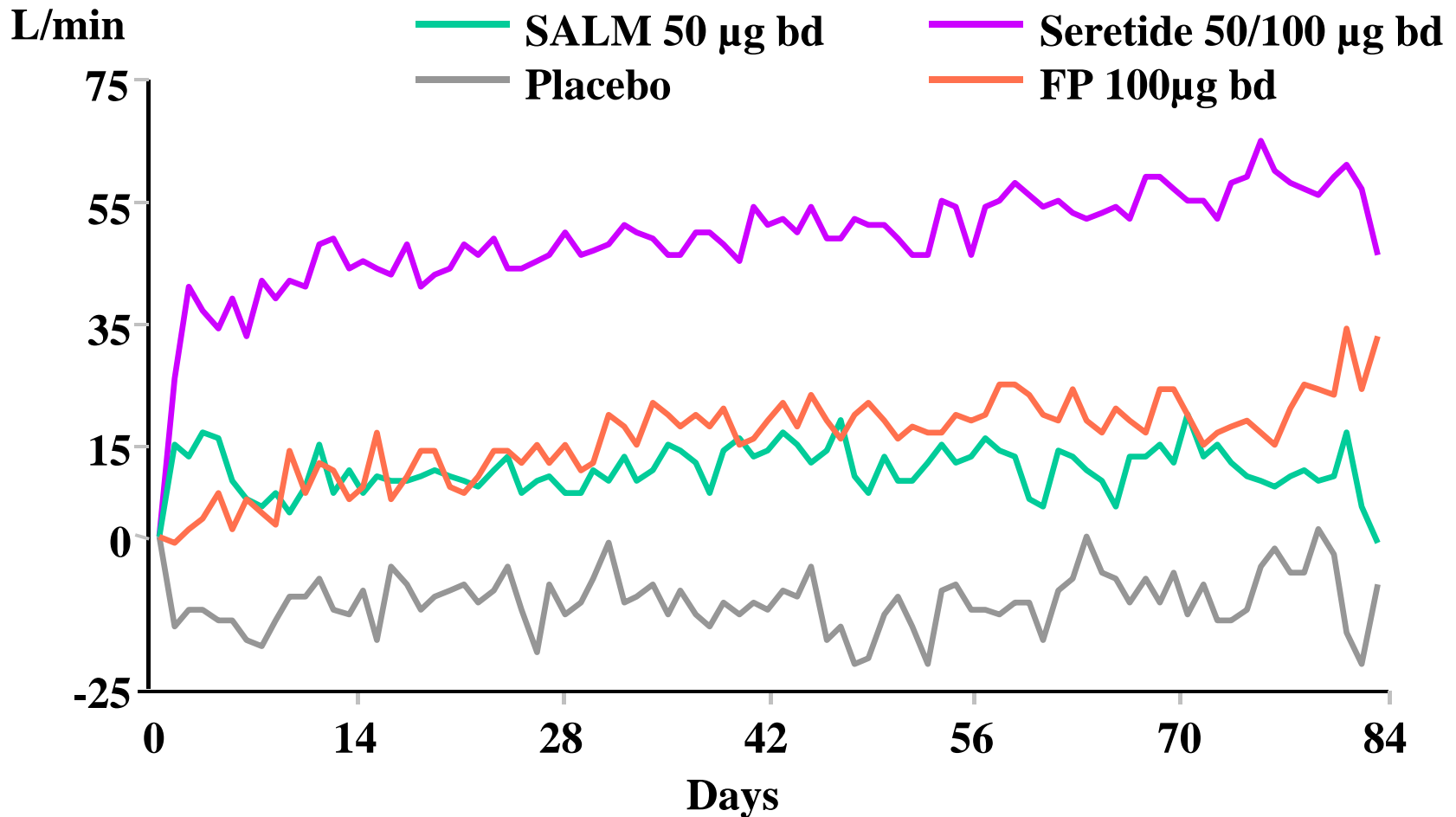
IN A SINGLE INHALER  
(COMBINATION)

# Combination therapy with ICS and LABA in a single inhaler (COMBINATION)

- Controls asthma at lower doses of ICS
- Improves lung function to a greater degree than higher dose of ICS
- Reduces risk of severe exacerbation
- Simplify treatment (single inhaler)
- Prevent over-relying of LABA or SABA at expense of ICS therapy avoiding the risks related to LABA monotherapy!
- Additional benefit on lung function (molecular interactions on receptors ?)

Problem: lack of flexibility when ICS dose needs to be adjusted stepping-down

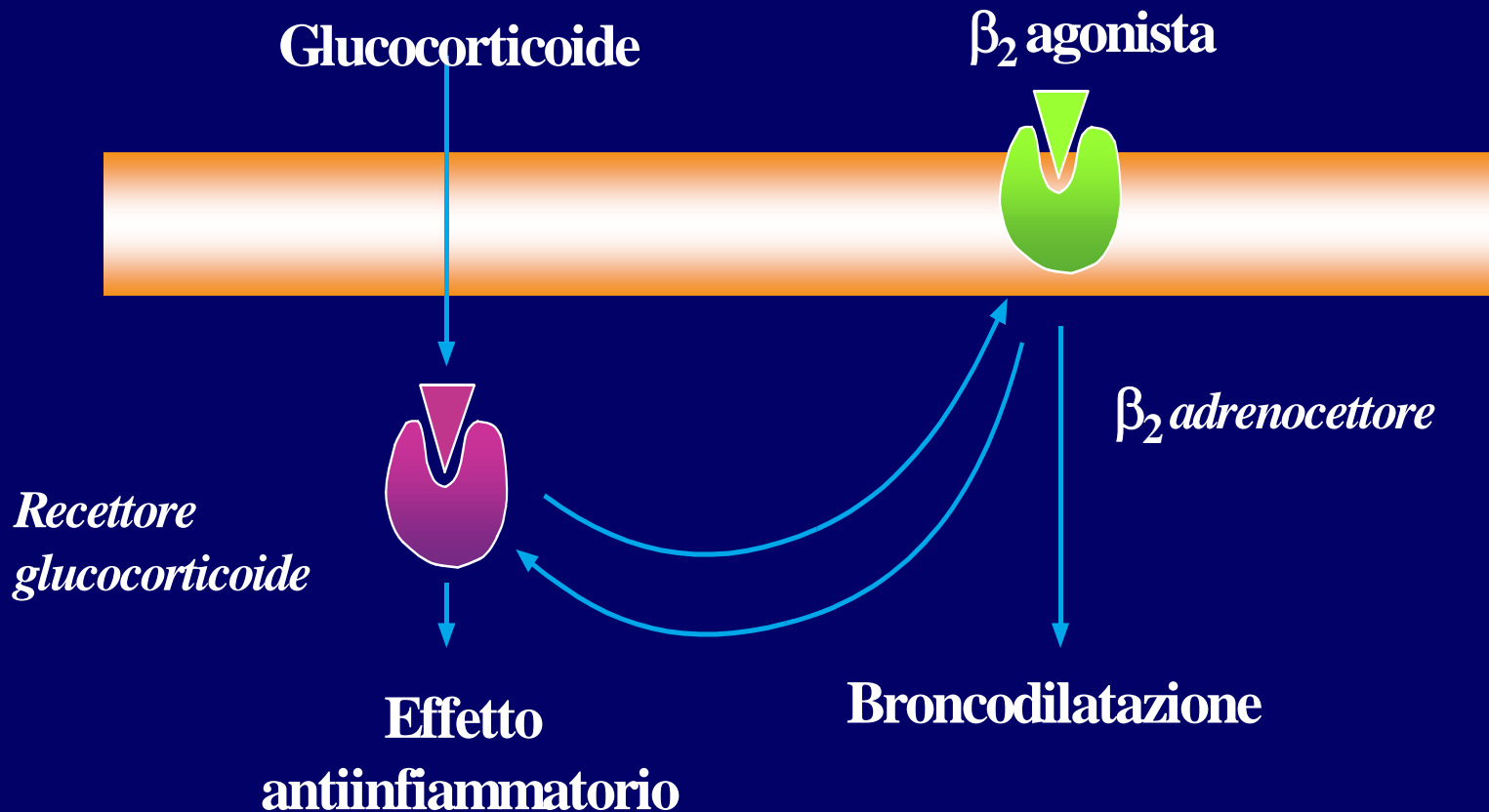
# S&FP vs individual components: Change from baseline in mean PEF am



70% of patients previously treated with ICS

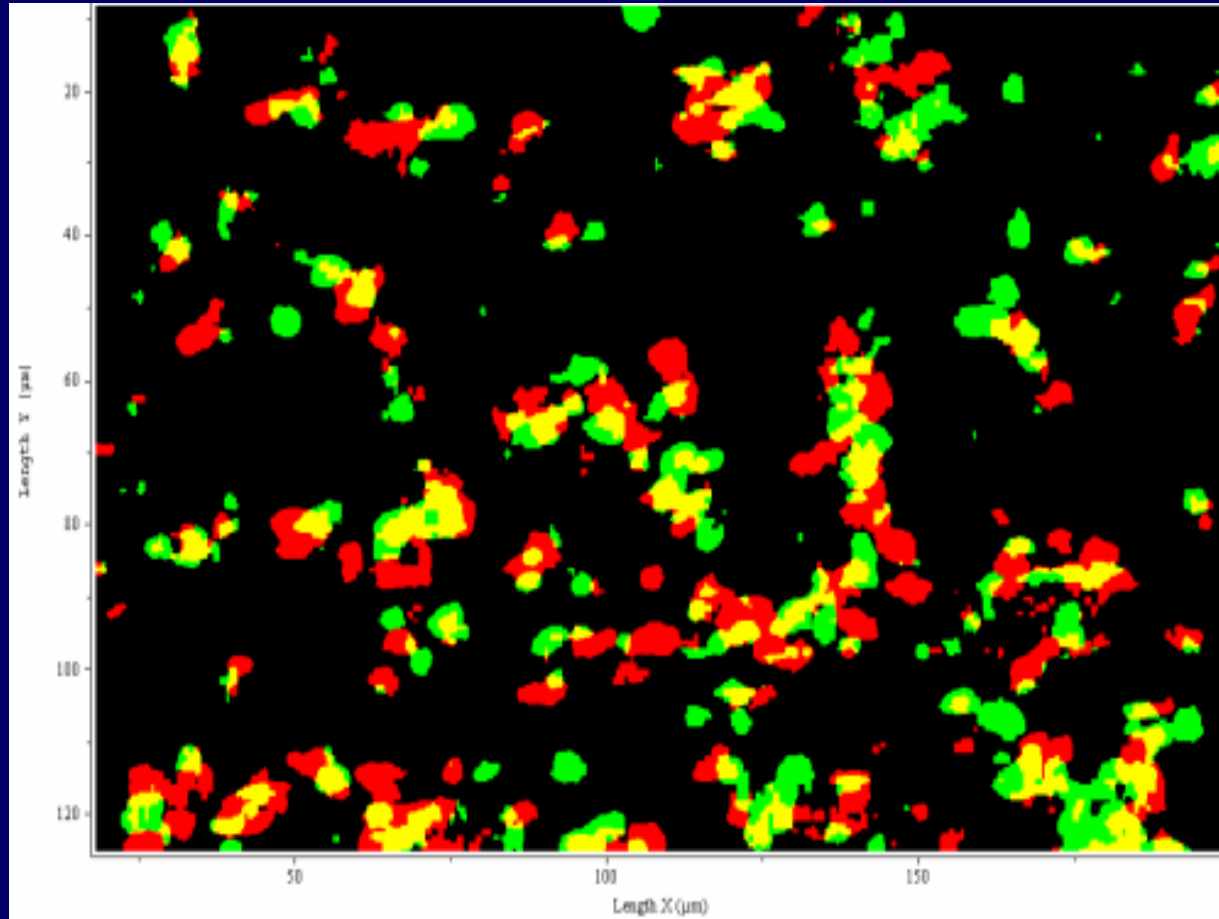
# CORTICOSTEROIDI E $\beta_2$ AGONISTI

## AZIONE SINERGICA



- Effetto del glucocorticoide sul  $\beta_2$  recettore (riconversione e  $\uparrow$  sintesi)
- Effetto del  $\beta_2$  agonista sul recettore glucocorticoide

# Raman Laser Analysis of combination therapy salmeterol (red) + fluticasone (green) formulation



Nelson JACI  
2003

Particle agglomeration of the 2 drugs (yellow)

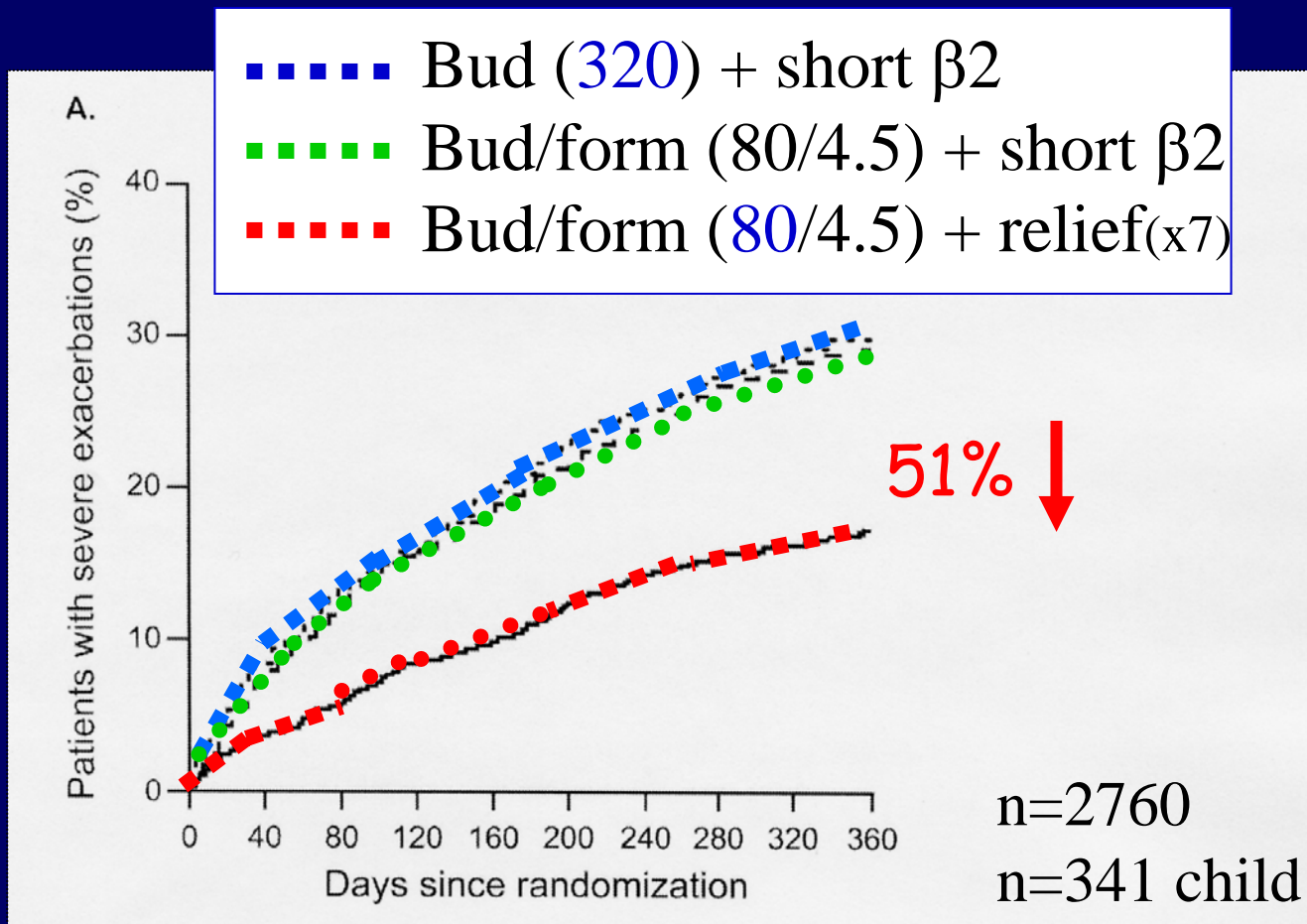
# Dosing regimens with combination therapy (LABA + ICS)

- **Fixed maintenance dose**  
salm/flutic  
bud/formot

- **Adjustable (flexible) dosing regimen**  
bud/formot

Allows to titrate the dose of ICS

# Budesonide/Formoterol combination therapy as both maintenance and reliever medication in asthma



O'Byrne  
AJRCCM 2005  
Bisgaard  
ERJ 2005

# Editorial

A single inhaler for both  
maintenance and rescue  
therapy?

Barnes AJRCCM 2005; 171: 95



## WARNING FOR ASTHMA DRUGS 2005

*LABA: boxed warning added on product label*

**WARNING:** Data from a large placebo-controlled US study that compared the safety of salmeterol (SEREVENT Inhalation Aerosol) or placebo added to usual asthma therapy showed a small but significant increase in asthma-related deaths in patients receiving salmeterol (13 deaths out of 13,174 patients treated for 28 weeks) versus those on placebo (4 of 13,179). Subgroup analyses suggest the risk may be greater in African-American patients compared to Caucasians (see WARNINGS and CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Clinical Trials: *Asthma: Salmeterol Multi-center Asthma Research Trial*).

“ Doctors must prescribe them properly  
and only for those who need ”

*(Lancet 2005)*

# TAKE HOME MESSAGES



- una terapia con basse dosi di steroidi riduce le riacutizzazioni e migliora la funzionalità respiratoria in un'alta % di pazienti
- se un bambino non risponde alla terapia:
  - 1) verifica come usa i devices
  - 2) considera terapia associazione ICS + LABA  
ICS + montelukast
- l'esperienza con LABA + ICS nei bambini è limitatata !

Combination therapy  
LABA + ICS

May mask underlying inflammation ?