




Pollen aeroallergen sensitization in children with seasonal allergic rhinitis

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RESUMEN

Background: Allergen sensitization is an important risk factor for allergic disease, including allergic rhinitis (AR), one of the most common chronic conditions in children. Our objective was to assess the sensitization status of pediatric AR patients. **Methods/Data base:** Patients from 148 centers in 15 countries were enrolled in a placebo-controlled, randomized, parallel-group study of children aged 6-11 years with seasonal AR (SAR). Children had to have a positive skin prick test to at least one pollen allergen for the current season, confirmed by specific serum immunoglobulin E (IgE) testing. Efficacy analysis was performed on the modified intention-to-treat (mITT) population, who were treated with fexofenadine HCl 30 mg twice daily or placebo. Efficacy across plant categories and for allergen-specific IgE levels was evaluated as the mean change from baseline in the total symptom score (TSS). **Results:** A concordant positive response to IgE and skin prick test to at least one allergen was observed in 99.6% of children in the mITT population. Analysis by plant category showed that grasses were the most common group of allergens; analysis by country and plant category showed that, in most countries, grasses were the most common group of allergens. Fexofenadine significantly improved the mean change from baseline in TSS in children grouped according to their sensitization to different plant categories and to different serum allergen-specific IgE levels ($p < 0.01$ for all subgroup tests). **Conclusion:** This worldwide pediatric study provides useful information about sensitization overall and by individual country analysis. Fexofenadine significantly improved the symptoms of SAR in all groups examined.

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