COMBINATION PHARMACOLOGICAL TREATMENTS FOR LUTS

Aims & Scope:
Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (LUTS), afflict an increasing population of both men and women. LUTS are associated with benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) and are prevalent in patients with overactive bladder (OAB). Pharmacological management is currently the mainstay of treatment for BPH-associated LUTS. Although symptoms can be effectively alleviated by α-blocker monotherapy, BPH may progress for a proportion of patients at risk. Should combination of an α-blocker and a 5α-reductase inhibitor (5-ARI) be considered first-line treatment for this cohort of BPH patients at risk of disease progression? There is a population of patients with BPH-associated LUTS with a significantly higher degree of bother from storage rather than from voiding symptoms. Could these patients do better with a pharmacological treatment that combines the effects of an α-blocker on voiding symptoms with that of an anticholinergic on storage symptoms? The landscape in the pharmacological management of overactive bladder is about to change given the introduction of drugs with a novel pharmacological action. Could this evolution likely facilitate the management of OAB anticholinergic-refractory patients or even change the treatment algorithm for OAB? The mini-thematic issue on pharmacological treatment of LUTS aims at answering these questions.

Key words: overactive bladder; BPH; LUTS; α-blockers; combination therapy

Subtopics:
1. Is there a first-line and a second-line anticholinergic treatment for OAB? (Apostolos Apostolidis)

2. The current indications and benefits of combining a β3-agonists with an anticholinergic for OAB. (Cosimo De Nunzio)

3. α-blockers plus anticholinergics for male LUTS, including BPH-associated LUTS; do the benefits outweigh the risks? (Athanasios Athanasopoulos)

4. BPH is a progressive disease and should be treated with the combination of α-blockers and 5ARIs. (Petros Sountoulides)

5. Current pharmacological treatment for male LUTS due to BPH: dutasteride or finasteride? (Luisella Pirozzi)

6. PDE-5 inhibitors for BPH-associated LUTS; hitting two birds with one stone? (Arun Sahai)

Schedule: Manuscript submission deadline: June 15th 2014

Peer Review Due: July 1st 2014

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Final manuscripts due: August 1st 2014