

New research shows asthma drug's effectiveness over usual care alone

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Credit: University of Plymouth

A new study co-authored by the University of Plymouth and published in *The Lancet* shows how an asthma drug was more effective at improving a patient's asthma control compared with their usual care.

The study was developed by pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), and showed that a once-daily inhalation of a powder, made up of

drugs fluticasone furoate and 25mg Vilanterol (FF/VI), was noticeably more effective at improving scores in a test of [asthma control](#), using a validated tool – the Asthma Control Test (ACT), than taking regular maintenance inhaler therapy alone.

Regular maintenance inhaler therapy is defined as taking [inhaled corticosteroids](#) (ICS) on their own, or in combination with a long-acting beta-agonist (LABA).

Commercially known as Relvar Ellipta, the [drug](#) was given to 2,114 of 4,233 [patients](#) for the study, with results monitored at 12, 24, 40 and 52 weeks.

And at 24 weeks, a significantly higher percentage of patients with symptomatic [asthma](#) and initiated on treatment with FF/VI achieved better control of their asthma (71%), compared with patients continuing usual care treatment (56%), (odds ratio 2.00, 95% CI 1.70, 2.34; p

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