New research shows asthma drug's effectiveness over usual care alone
13 September 2017, by Amy Mcsweeny

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...