

Efficacy and safety of tiotropium + olodaterol maintenance treatment in patients with COPD in the TONADO[®] and OTEMTO[®] studies: a subgroup analysis by age

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Background: Increasing age is associated with poor prognosis in patients with COPD.

Objective: This analysis from the replicate Phase III OTEMTO[®] and TONADO[®] studies examined the efficacy and safety of tiotropium, a long-acting anticholinergic, combined with olodaterol, a long-acting β_2 -agonist, compared to monotherapies and placebo in patients with COPD aged 40 years to <65 years, 65 years to <75 years, 75 years to <85 years, and ≥ 85 years.

Methods: In these double-blind, parallel-group, active-controlled, multicenter, randomized studies, patients received tiotropium + olodaterol 2.5/5 μg or 5/5 μg , tiotropium 5 μg or 2.5 μg (TONADO only), olodaterol 5 μg (TONADO only), or placebo (OTEMTO only). This analysis used the approved doses of tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 μg , tiotropium 5 μg , and olodaterol 5 μg . Primary end points at 12 weeks (OTEMTO) or 24 weeks (TONADO) included St George's Respiratory Questionnaire (SGRQ) total score, forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV₁) area under the curve from 0 hour to 3 hours (AUC₀₋₃) response, and trough FEV₁ response.

Results: A total of 1,621 patients were randomized (40 years to <65 years, n=749; 65 years to <75 years, n=674; 75 years to <85 years, n=186; ≥ 85 years, n=12) in OTEMTO and 5,162 patients (40 years to <65 years, n=2,654; 65 years to <75 years, n=1,967; 75 to <85 years, n=528; ≥ 85 years, n=13) in TONADO. FEV₁, AUC₀₋₃ and trough FEV₁ responses improved with tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 μg at 12 weeks and 24 weeks compared to monotherapies or placebo for all age groups. SGRQ scores generally improved with tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 μg after 12 weeks in OTEMTO and improved after 24 weeks in all age groups in TONADO. In all age groups receiving tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 μg compared to monotherapies or placebo, transition dyspnea index scores generally improved, while rescue medication usage improved.

Conclusion: No differences were noted in relative responses to treatment or safety when using tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 μg compared to monotherapies or placebo across all age groups.

Keywords: FEV₁, SGRQ, lung function, TDI, rescue medication

Introduction

COPD is characterized by persistent, progressive airflow limitation caused by lung tissue destruction and airway inflammation.¹ Age has been shown to be independently associated with poor prognosis in patients with COPD,¹ and the projected aging of the world population suggests an imminent increase in the global prevalence of older patients with COPD.²

COPD is often accompanied by comorbidities,³ with 78.4% of patients reporting more than one chronic condition.⁴ Older patients with COPD are more likely to have

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such additional chronic conditions, including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and osteoporosis.⁵ Morbidity due to COPD has been shown to increase with age, with hospitalization due to an exacerbation more likely with older age^{1,6} and an increasing probability of death after hospitalization.⁶

Tiotropium is an established once-daily long-acting anticholinergic for COPD maintenance treatment that has been shown to provide a broad range of long-term improvements in lung function, quality of life, exacerbation risk, and exercise capacity.⁷⁻¹³ A newer treatment option for COPD is olodaterol, a once-daily long-acting β_2 -agonist with high selectivity and fast onset of action.¹⁴⁻¹⁷ The combination of tiotropium + olodaterol delivered via the Respimat[®] inhaler is approved in the US, Canada, and Europe and has been extensively studied in a large Phase III clinical trial program (TOviTO[®]).¹⁸

In the OTEMTO[®] trials – two replicate Phase III studies in patients with moderate to severe COPD – tiotropium + olodaterol was compared to tiotropium alone or placebo, and improvements in lung function and quality of life and an acceptable safety profile over 12 weeks of use were demonstrated.¹⁹ In the TONADO[®] trials – two large, replicate, Phase III studies – patients with moderate to very severe COPD demonstrated improvements in lung function and an acceptable safety profile with tiotropium + olodaterol compared to tiotropium and olodaterol individually over 52 weeks.²⁰

Due to challenges that may accompany COPD in older patients with higher medical needs, it is important to examine

the effects of tiotropium + olodaterol in this population. The replicate OTEMTO and TONADO studies provide a valuable opportunity to assess these end points in a large patient population followed up for up to 1 year.

This analysis examines the effects of tiotropium + olodaterol on lung function, safety, and health-related quality of life compared to monotherapies and placebo in patients with COPD stratified by age from the OTEMTO and TONADO trials.

Methods

Study design

Detailed methodologies of OTEMTO (1237.5+1237.6) and TONADO (1237.25+1237.26) have been previously published.^{19,20} Briefly, these trials were two pairs of replicate, double-blind, parallel-group, active-controlled, multicenter, randomized, Phase III studies (registered with ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT01431274 [Study 1237.5], NCT01431287 [Study 1237.6], NCT01964352 [Study 1237.25], and NCT02006732 [Study 1237.26]). The OTEMTO studies were placebo-controlled and comparator-controlled trials, and patients were randomized to receive tiotropium + olodaterol 2.5/5 μ g or 5/5 μ g, tiotropium 5 μ g, or placebo for 12 weeks (Figure 1). The TONADO studies did not have a placebo-control arm, and patients received tiotropium + olodaterol 2.5/5 μ g or 5/5 μ g, tiotropium 2.5 μ g or 5 μ g, or olodaterol 5 μ g over 52 weeks (Figure 1). This analysis

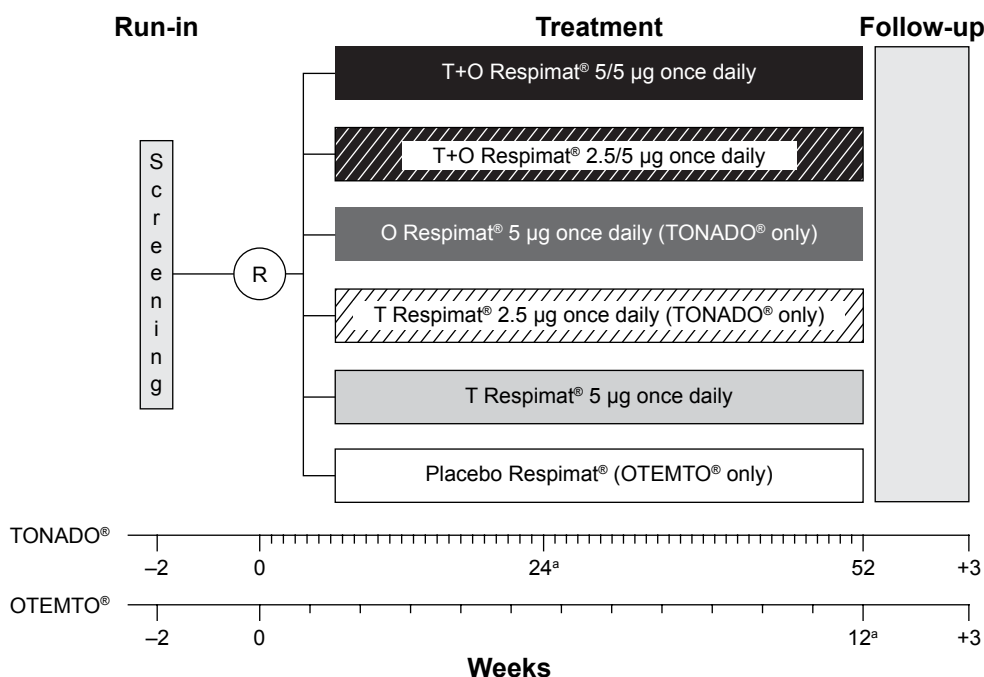


Figure 1 OTEMTO[®] (1237.5 [NCT01431274] + 1237.6 [NCT01431287]) and TONADO[®] (1237.25 [NCT01964352] + 1237.26 [NCT02006732]) study designs.

Note: ^aPrimary end point assessment.

Abbreviations: O, olodaterol; R, randomization; T, tiotropium.

focuses on the approved doses of tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 µg, tiotropium 5 µg, and olodaterol 5 µg. All treatments were administered once daily via the Respimat inhaler (Boehringer Ingelheim, Ingelheim am Rhein, Germany). Salbutamol (albuterol) was provided as rescue medication for all study participants and use was recorded in a diary. Patients were permitted to continue use of inhaled corticosteroids, if previously prescribed, provided the dose was stabilized for 6 weeks prior to the screening visit.

The studies included in this post hoc analysis were approved by the review boards of the coordinating institutions (TONADO: University Hospital Mainz, Mainz, Germany; OTEMTO: National Research Ethics Service Committee, Manchester, UK) as well as each relevant national, regional, or independent ethics committee or institutional review board and conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and Good Clinical Practice guidelines. Patients provided written informed consent.

Study outcomes and assessments

Primary end points, measured at 12 weeks (OTEMTO) or 24 weeks (TONADO), included St George's Respiratory Questionnaire (SGRQ) total score, forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV_1) area under the curve from 0 hour to 3 hours (AUC_{0-3}) response (change from baseline), and trough FEV_1 response. Secondary end points included the transition dyspnea index (TDI) focal score, also measured at 12 weeks (OTEMTO) or 24 weeks (TONADO). Further end points included SGRQ responder analysis (responders defined as having a decrease in SGRQ total score ≥ 4.0 units, based on the proposed minimum clinically important difference for active treatment versus placebo²¹) and TDI responder analysis (responders defined as patients with a value ≥ 1.0 unit at the time of analysis, ie, improvement from baseline dyspnea index of ≥ 1.0 unit, considered the threshold of clinical relevance²²).

Analyses were performed on pooled data for the OTEMTO studies and pooled data for the TONADO studies. This age subgroup analysis, including age cutoffs, was preplanned for FEV_1 , AUC_{0-3} and trough FEV_1 for the individual OTEMTO and TONADO trials and pooled TONADO trials. Age subgroup analysis was not prespecified in the pooled OTEMTO trials.

Patients

The main inclusion criteria were: outpatients aged ≥ 40 years with a history of moderate to severe (OTEMTO) or moderate to very severe (TONADO) COPD; postbronchodilator $FEV_1 < 80\%$ of predicted normal (lower limit $\geq 30\%$ in OTEMTO; no lower limit in TONADO); postbronchodilator

FEV_1 /forced vital capacity $< 70\%$; and current or ex-smokers with a smoking history of > 10 pack-years. The main exclusion factors were: presence of a significant disease other than COPD; clinically relevant abnormal baseline laboratory parameters or a history of asthma; or regular use of daytime oxygen if patients were unable to abstain during clinic visits. Non-long-acting β_2 -agonist or non-long-acting muscarinic antagonist concomitant respiratory medications were allowed in all studies, with further details presented elsewhere.^{19,20}

For the prespecified analysis of FEV_1 , AUC_{0-3} and trough FEV_1 in each study, patients were divided into the following age groups: 40 years to < 65 years, 65 years to < 75 years, 75 years to < 85 years, and ≥ 85 years. The prespecified categorization from the single studies was used throughout all analyses performed. Predicted FEV_1 values were used according to those calculated for adults (aged 18–70 years) by the European Community for Steel and Coal/European Respiratory Society, and interpolated for those patients aged > 70 years.²³ Further details of statistical analyses are contained in the [Supplementary materials](#).

Results

In total, 1,621 patients were randomized (40 years to < 65 years, $n=749$; 65 years to < 75 years, $n=674$; 75 years to < 85 years, $n=186$; ≥ 85 years, $n=12$) in the OTEMTO trials. In the TONADO trials, 5,162 patients were randomized to treatment (40 years to < 65 years, $n=2,654$; 65 years to < 75 years, $n=1,967$; 75 years to < 85 years, $n=528$; ≥ 85 years, $n=13$). There were very few patients in the ≥ 85 years group, so this group was excluded from further analysis. The majority of patients were in their 60s, with an average age of 64.7 ± 8.4 years in OTEMTO and 64.0 ± 8.3 years in TONADO ([Figure S1](#)).

Baseline patient demographics were similar between studies, although TONADO included a greater percentage of male patients compared to OTEMTO (Table 1). Mean duration of COPD and percentage of current smokers were slightly higher for all age groups in OTEMTO compared to TONADO. OTEMTO patients also tended to have slightly higher baseline lung function values, reflecting the exclusion of patients with very severe COPD.

Across both studies, there were fewer men in the youngest age group (40 years to < 65 years) compared to the older age groups. In the older age groups in both OTEMTO and TONADO, absolute lung function at baseline (mean FEV_1 postbronchodilator) was lower, although the relative severity as a percent of predicted FEV_1 was similar across age groups. There was a trend toward fewer current smokers in the older patient groups. The majority of patients in

Table 1 Baseline patient demographics by age group

	OTEMTO® (n=1,609)			TONADO® (n=5,149)		
	40 years to <65 years (n=749)	65 years to <75 years (n=674)	75 years to <85 years (n=186)	40 years to <65 years (n=2,654)	65 years to <75 years (n=1,967)	75 years to <85 years (n=528)
Male, n (%)	428 (57.1)	434 (64.4)	119 (64.0)	1,808 (68.1)	1,499 (76.2)	444 (84.1)
BMI, kg/m ² , mean (SD)	28.2 (6.2)	27.9 (5.5)	27.0 (5.2)	26.0 (6.0)	25.8 (5.1)	25.2 (4.8)
Duration of COPD, years, mean (SD)	6.7 (5.3)	8.5 (5.9)	9.5 (6.5)	5.8 (5.5)	7.2 (6.0)	7.6 (6.4)
Smoking status, n (%)						
Ex-smoker	278 (37.1)	423 (62.8)	145 (78.0)	1,345 (50.7)	1,450 (73.7)	446 (84.5)
Current smoker	471 (62.9)	251 (37.2)	41 (22.0)	1,309 (49.3)	517 (26.3)	82 (15.5)
Prebronchodilator screening, mean (SD)						
FEV ₁ , L	1.47 (0.53)	1.28 (0.44)	1.11 (0.37)	1.27 (0.54)	1.15 (0.44)	1.09 (0.47)
% of predicted normal FEV ₁	49.0 (13.4)	47.8 (13.6)	47.5 (13.3)	43.2 (15.6)	43.8 (14.6)	45.9 (14.1)
Postbronchodilator screening, mean (SD)						
FEV ₁ , L	1.67 (0.54)	1.46 (0.45)	1.29 (0.37)	1.45 (0.56)	1.31 (0.46)	1.24 (0.39)
% of predicted normal FEV ₁	55.8 (12.8)	54.3 (12.9)	54.9 (12.4)	49.3 (15.8)	50.1 (14.8)	52.5 (14.1)
GOLD, n (%) ^a						
50% to <80% (GOLD 2)	497 (66.4)	421 (62.5)	116 (62.4)	1,286 (48.5)	989 (50.3)	304 (57.6)
30% to <50% (GOLD 3)	247 (33.0)	249 (36.9)	70 (37.6)	1,011 (38.1)	780 (39.7)	195 (36.9)
<30% (GOLD 4)	4 (0.5)	4 (0.6)	0	354 (13.3)	198 (10.1)	29 (5.5)
Other ^b	1 (0.1)	0	0	3 (0.1)	0	0
Baseline pulmonary medications, n (%)						
Any	551 (73.6)	532 (78.9)	146 (78.5)	2,033 (76.6)	1,612 (82.0)	452 (85.6)
LAMAs	213 (28.4)	267 (39.6)	73 (39.2)	821 (30.9)	775 (39.4)	238 (45.1)
SAMAs	50 (6.7)	54 (8.0)	19 (10.2)	361 (13.6)	238 (12.1)	66 (12.5)
LABAs	258 (34.4)	285 (42.3)	79 (42.5)	1,194 (45.0)	948 (48.2)	245 (46.4)
SABAs	385 (51.4)	330 (49.0)	94 (50.5)	1,121 (42.2)	768 (39.0)	186 (35.2)
ICS	242 (32.3)	266 (39.5)	93 (50.0)	1,210 (45.6)	977 (49.7)	254 (48.1)
Xanthines	14 (1.9)	17 (2.5)	4 (2.2)	232 (8.7)	218 (11.1)	65 (12.3)

Notes: ^aBased on postbronchodilator FEV₁ percentage predicted. ^bOf the four patients in this category, three had mild COPD (GOLD 1) and one had missing values.

Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; FEV₁, forced expiratory volume in 1 second; GOLD, Global initiative for chronic Obstructive Lung Disease; ICS, inhaled corticosteroids; LABA, long-acting β_2 -agonist; LAMA, long-acting muscarinic antagonist; SABA, short-acting β -agonist; SAMA, short-acting muscarinic antagonist; SD, standard deviation.

both studies had COPD classified as Global initiative for chronic Obstructive Lung Disease 2, and fewer patients in the 40 years to <65 years group were receiving pulmonary medications at baseline compared to older groups.

Lung function response

In OTEMTO and TONADO, FEV₁ AUC₀₋₃ response improved in patients across all age groups receiving tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 μ g compared to monotherapies or placebo after 12 weeks and 24 weeks, respectively (Figure 2A). Trough FEV₁ response was also greater with tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 μ g compared to monotherapies or placebo in all age groups (Figure 2B). In both studies, the change in adjusted mean FEV₁ AUC₀₋₃ response with tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 μ g versus monotherapy or placebo was most pronounced in individuals aged 40 years to <65 years, with a lesser effect in individuals aged 75 years to <85 years (Figure 3A), but in general similar effects with widely overlapping 95% confidence intervals were observed.

Similarly, in TONADO, the difference in trough FEV₁ response between tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 μ g and

tiotropium 5 μ g was less pronounced in those aged 75 years to <85 years than in the other age groups (Figure 3B). The differences in trough FEV₁ response between tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 μ g and olodaterol 5 μ g in TONADO and between tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 μ g and tiotropium 5 μ g or placebo in OTEMTO were relatively consistent across the three age groups. The smaller treatment difference observed in the oldest age group might be in part due to the small sample size in this age group, reflected by the wide 95% confidence interval.

Health status outcomes (SGRQ total scores and TDI focal scores)

After 12 weeks in OTEMTO, SGRQ total score improved in the 40 years to <65 years and 65 years to <75 years groups receiving tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 μ g compared to tiotropium 5 μ g and placebo; in the 75 years to <85 years group, a numerical improvement was observed in the tiotropium 5 μ g group compared to tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 μ g, but 95% confidence intervals were still overlapping (Table S1; Figure S2). In TONADO, SGRQ total scores generally improved after 24 weeks across all age groups with

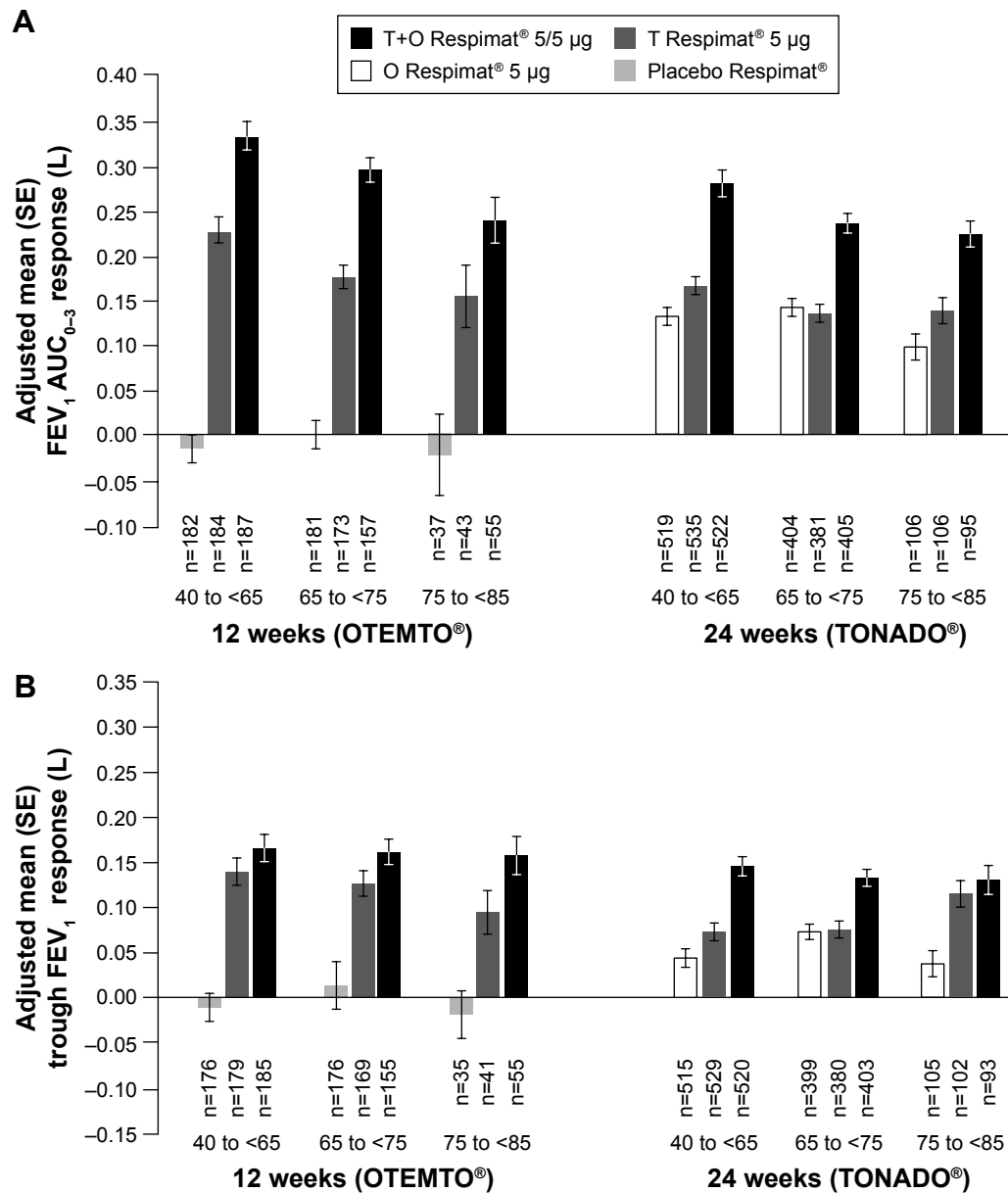


Figure 2 FEV₁ AUC₀₋₃ response (A) and trough FEV₁ response (B) by age group after 12 weeks (OTEMTO®) and 24 weeks (TONADO®).

Abbreviations: AUC₀₋₃, area under the curve from 0 hour to 3 hours; FEV₁, forced expiratory volume in 1 second; O, olodaterol; SE, standard error; T, tiotropium.

tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 µg compared to olodaterol 5 µg and tiotropium 5 µg (Table S1). Treatment effects seemed to be similar, with widely overlapping 95% confidence intervals across all age groups (Figure S2).

In OTEMTO, more patients receiving tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 µg were SGRQ responders compared to patients receiving tiotropium 5 µg or placebo in all age groups (Table S1; Figure S3). In TONADO, the percentage of patients classified as SGRQ responders was highest with tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 µg in all age groups compared to monotherapies (Table S1; Figure S3).

After 12 weeks in the OTEMTO studies, mean TDI focal scores were higher in patients receiving tiotropium +

olodaterol 5/5 µg compared to placebo in all age groups, and compared to tiotropium 5 µg in the 40 years to <65 years and 65 years to <75 years groups (Table S2). There seemed to be some heterogeneity across the age groups in OTEMTO (Figure S4). All age groups in TONADO demonstrated an improvement in TDI focal scores with tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 µg compared to monotherapies. Improvements in TDI focal score were most pronounced in the 65 years to <75 years group (Table S2), but 95% confidence intervals were widely overlapping and the treatment effects seemed to be homogeneous across age groups in TONADO (Figure S4).

In both the OTEMTO and TONADO studies, more patients receiving tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 µg were

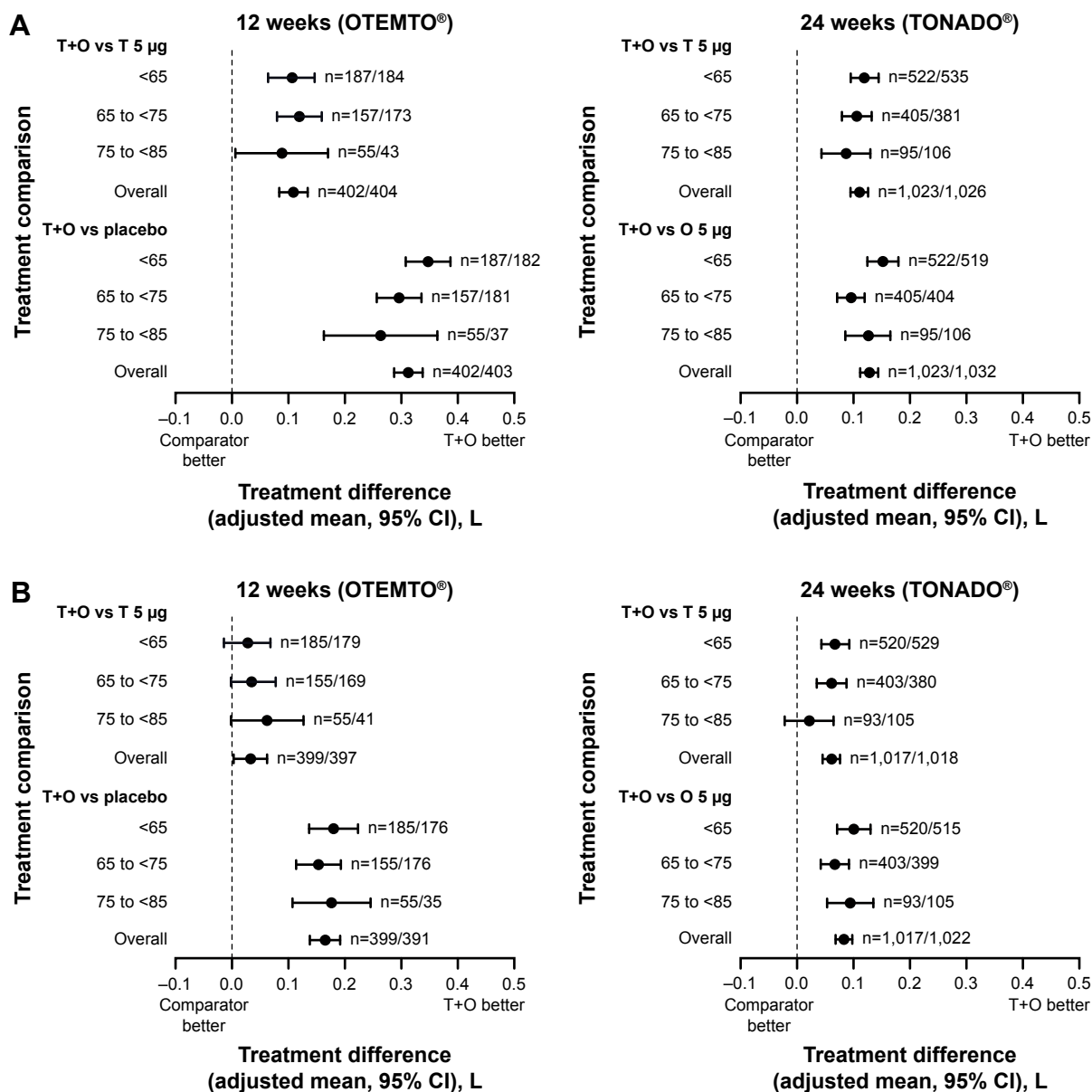


Figure 3 Impact of treatment on FEV₁, AUC₀₋₃ response (A) and trough FEV₁ response (B) by age group after 12 weeks (OTEMTO®) and 24 weeks (TONADO®). **Abbreviations:** AUC₀₋₃, area under the curve from 0 hour to 3 hours; CI, confidence interval; FEV₁, forced expiratory volume in 1 second; O, olodaterol; T, tiotropium.

TDI responders compared to patients receiving monotherapies or placebo in the 40 years to <65 years and 65 years to <75 years groups. In the 75 years to <85 years groups in both studies, a greater percentage of patients receiving tiotropium 5 µg achieved TDI responder status compared to patients receiving tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 µg, olodaterol 5 µg, or placebo (Table S2), but more patients in the tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 µg arm were TDI responders than in the olodaterol 5 µg and placebo arms. The 65 years to <75 years group in patients receiving tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 µg had the greatest percentage of TDI responders compared to other age groups and treatments in both studies (Table S2; Figure S5).

Rescue medication use

Daytime and nighttime rescue medication use was reduced in patients receiving tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 µg compared to patients receiving monotherapies or placebo across all age groups (Tables S3 and S4).

Safety

The percentage of patients experiencing any adverse event increased slightly with age in the TONADO and OTEMTO studies (Table 2). In all age groups in TONADO, the system organ classes with the highest reported adverse events were: respiratory, thoracic, and mediastinal disorders; infections and infestations; and gastrointestinal disorders. In

Table 2 Summary of AEs by age group

System organ class	TONADO® (n=5,149), n (%)											
	40 years to <65 years				65 years to <75 years				75 years to <85 years			
	Olodaterol 5 µg	Tiotropium 5 µg	Tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 µg	n (%)	Olodaterol 5 µg	Tiotropium 5 µg	Tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 µg	n (%)	Olodaterol 5 µg	Tiotropium 5 µg	Tiotropium + olodaterol 5/5 µg	n (%)
Total patients	520 (100)	540 (100)	525 (100)		408 (100)	383 (100)	407 (100)		107 (100)	106 (100)	106 (100)	
All AEs	389 (74.8)	376 (69.6)	379 (72.2)		319 (78.2)	290 (75.7)	305 (74.9)		84 (78.5)	87 (82.1)	77 (80.2)	
Serious AEs	84 (16.2)	67 (12.4)	75 (14.3)		65 (15.9)	76 (19.8)	67 (16.5)		29 (27.1)	29 (27.4)	27 (28.1)	
Specific AEs with an incidence > 3% in total population												
Cardiac disorders	24 (4.6)	29 (5.4)	25 (4.8)		29 (7.1)	18 (4.7)	16 (3.9)		5 (4.7)	8 (7.5)	5 (5.2)	
Eye disorders	14 (2.7)	10 (1.9)	12 (2.3)		21 (5.1)	21 (5.5)	25 (6.1)		3 (2.8)	7 (6.6)	9 (9.4)	
Gastrointestinal disorders	84 (16.2)	72 (13.3)	68 (13.0)		63 (15.4)	63 (16.4)	65 (16.0)		18 (16.8)	18 (17.0)	10 (10.4)	
General disorders and administration site conditions	48 (9.2)	50 (9.3)	40 (7.6)		23 (5.6)	38 (9.9)	28 (6.9)		14 (13.1)	10 (9.4)	5 (5.2)	
Infections and infestations	191 (36.7)	180 (33.3)	178 (33.9)		155 (38.0)	126 (32.9)	152 (37.3)		46 (43.0)	40 (37.7)	44 (45.8)	
Injury, poisoning, and procedural complications	43 (8.3)	41 (7.6)	49 (9.3)		29 (7.1)	29 (7.6)	39 (9.6)		10 (9.3)	13 (12.3)	11 (11.5)	
Investigations	23 (4.4)	22 (4.1)	21 (4.0)		23 (5.6)	13 (3.4)	20 (4.9)		5 (4.7)	6 (5.7)	3 (3.1)	
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	20 (3.8)	20 (3.7)	22 (4.2)		18 (4.4)	21 (5.5)	19 (4.7)		9 (8.4)	13 (12.3)	7 (7.3)	
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	58 (11.2)	59 (10.9)	84 (16.0)		49 (12.0)	50 (13.1)	54 (13.3)		17 (15.9)	8 (7.5)	18 (18.8)	
Neoplasms benign, malignant, and unspecified (including cysts and polyps)	14 (2.7)	8 (1.5)	10 (1.9)		13 (3.2)	20 (5.2)	11 (2.7)		9 (8.4)	9 (8.5)	6 (6.3)	
Nervous system disorders	39 (7.5)	47 (8.7)	32 (6.1)		38 (9.3)	42 (11.0)	41 (10.1)		8 (7.5)	12 (11.3)	11 (11.5)	
Psychiatric disorders	23 (4.4)	20 (3.7)	13 (2.5)		17 (4.2)	8 (2.1)	14 (3.4)		8 (7.5)	2 (1.9)	7 (7.3)	
Renal and urinary disorders	11 (2.1)	13 (2.4)	9 (1.7)		14 (3.4)	16 (4.2)	17 (4.2)		3 (2.8)	7 (6.6)	8 (8.3)	
Respiratory, thoracic, and mediastinal disorders	220 (42.3)	222 (41.1)	200 (38.1)		192 (47.1)	162 (42.3)	160 (39.3)		56 (52.3)	55 (51.9)	45 (46.9)	
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	19 (3.7)	27 (5.0)	23 (4.4)		28 (6.9)	21 (5.5)	24 (5.9)		7 (6.5)	4 (3.8)	9 (9.4)	
Vascular disorders	28 (5.4)	22 (4.1)	28 (5.3)		31 (7.6)	20 (5.2)	24 (5.9)		12 (11.2)	7 (6.6)	10 (10.4)	
System organ class												
OTEMTO® (n=1,609), n (%)												
40 years to <65 years												
Placebo	183 (100)	185 (100)	189 (100)		183 (100)	174 (100)	158 (100)		37 (100)	43 (100)	55 (100)	
All AEs	82 (44.8)	83 (44.9)	76 (40.2)		93 (50.8)	74 (42.5)	71 (44.9)		21 (56.8)	24 (55.8)	30 (54.5)	
Serious AEs	6 (3.3)	6 (3.2)	9 (4.8)		9 (4.9)	6 (3.4)	4 (2.5)		0	6 (14.0)	3 (5.5)	
Specific AEs with an incidence > 3% in total population												
Infections and infestations	24 (13.1)	29 (15.7)	28 (14.8)		26 (14.2)	29 (16.7)	27 (17.1)		7 (18.9)	9 (20.9)	6 (10.9)	
Nervous system disorders	4 (2.2)	5 (2.7)	1 (0.5)		3 (1.6)	6 (3.4)	9 (5.7)		2 (5.4)	0	3 (5.5)	
Respiratory, thoracic, and mediastinal disorders	35 (19.1)	22 (11.9)	24 (12.7)		41 (22.4)	28 (16.1)	26 (16.5)		9 (24.3)	4 (9.3)	13 (23.6)	
Gastrointestinal disorders	8 (4.4)	12 (6.5)	15 (7.9)		10 (5.5)	5 (2.9)	6 (3.8)		1 (2.7)	6 (14.0)	1 (1.8)	
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	11 (6.0)	10 (5.4)	12 (6.3)		13 (7.1)	9 (5.2)	16 (10.1)		2 (5.4)	3 (7.0)	5 (9.1)	
General disorders and administration site conditions	2 (1.1)	5 (2.7)	8 (4.2)		9 (4.9)	4 (2.3)	4 (2.5)		2 (5.4)	2 (4.7)	3 (5.5)	
Injury, poisoning, and procedural complications	3 (1.6)	4 (2.2)	3 (1.6)		8 (4.4)	4 (2.3)	9 (5.7)		2 (5.4)	4 (9.3)	3 (5.5)	
Notes: Combined analyses of treated sets. Percentages calculated using total number of patients in the age group with treatment class as the denominator. Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities Version 17.1 used for reporting.												
Abbreviation: AE, adverse event.												

OTEMTO, the most commonly reported adverse events were within the system organ classes of: respiratory, thoracic, and mediastinal disorders; infections and infestations; and musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders.

The same trend was seen with serious adverse events, with a slight increase with age seen in all treatment groups in both studies. Across all age groups and treatment groups in both studies, COPD was the most common serious adverse event reported.

Discussion

OTEMTO and TONADO were two replicate, large-scale paired studies assessing the efficacy and safety of the combination of tiotropium + olodaterol for the treatment of COPD compared to the monotherapies and placebo (OTEMTO only). Overall, there were some differences in response to treatment between the patient groups, but tiotropium + olodaterol was effective irrespective of age, as noted by improvements in lung function, SGRQ scores, TDI focal scores, and rescue medication use in all the age groups. A trend toward smaller improvements was seen in patients aged 75 years to <85 years for some end points. Although we did not see a difference in percent predicted FEV₁ across the age groups in this study, there was lower absolute pre- and postbronchodilator FEV₁ at baseline in older patients, which could be one explanation for the smaller improvements in this population. Lower baseline lung function has been reported in older individuals,²⁴ and smaller improvements in lung function were observed in older patients receiving tiotropium alone in a previous study.²⁵ In addition, it is possible that the aging lung may have less capacity for improvement following bronchodilator treatment.

We observed greater variation in the lung function response in older patients indicated by wider confidence intervals in the 75 years to <85 years group. This is, in part, due to there being fewer patients in this group; however, we cannot exclude the possibility that greater variation may be due to reduced compliance and/or increased difficulty in performing spirometry maneuvers in this age group.

Importantly, the analysis did not suggest any safety concerns in older patients using tiotropium + olodaterol compared to monotherapies or placebo, similar to previous findings for tiotropium alone (once daily via Respimat 5 µg or HandiHaler® [Boehringer Ingelheim] 18 µg for >4 weeks) in Japanese patients ≥80 years old.²⁵

By assessing both the 12-week OTEMTO and 24-week TONADO studies, it was possible to investigate the effects of tiotropium + olodaterol in patients with moderate to very severe COPD, including those on other respiratory

medications, providing a more “real-world” assessment of the relatively broad range of patients who are likely to need maintenance treatment for COPD symptom management in clinical practice.

The prevalence of COPD has been shown to increase significantly with increasing age, with the highest prevalence seen in men and women >70 years of age.²⁶ However, most COPD clinical trials have not specifically assessed the effects of maintenance treatment in patients aged >70 years. As there was no upper age limit for inclusion in this study, the safety and efficacy of tiotropium + olodaterol in this older age group could be assessed.

There are a number of issues that must be considered when managing COPD in elderly patients. COPD is associated with many serious chronic conditions, notably diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease.²⁷ Elderly patients with COPD have a more than twofold increase in prevalence of frailty compared to those without COPD,²⁸ and older patients with COPD have also been found to be at risk of greater loss of bone mineral density²⁹ and community-acquired pneumonia than healthy older populations, often accompanied by worse clinical outcomes.^{30,31} However, treatment with an inhaled bronchodilator may be beneficial in older patients with comorbidities. In patients aged 50 years to 85 years, β₂-agonist treatment has been shown to reduce lung hyperinflation, with improvements in right cardiac chamber compliance indices and contractility.³²

Advanced age coupled with serious comorbidities may also affect a patient's ability to properly use an inhaler, although in the investigators' experience, this trial demonstrated no issues with handling of the Respimat inhaler, regardless of age. Clinical guidelines recommend that a health-care professional should regularly assess patients' inhaler technique.^{33,34} These factors may require additional vigilance in elderly populations to evaluate potential impact on treatment response.

A key limitation of these trials was the exclusion of patients who had severe conditions other than COPD that could have affected the outcome of a patient, influenced the results of the studies, or caused concern regarding a patient's ability to participate. However, TONADO did allow the inclusion of patients with significant cardiovascular comorbidities, including patients on β-blockers. This could mean that these studies may not reflect the whole spectrum of older patients with COPD and higher risk comorbidities in a real-world setting; furthermore, we did not directly assess whether the impact of therapy was affected by the presence of comorbidities. The findings of this analysis also cannot

be applied to the oldest of patients, as there were too few patients in the >85 years group to be included in the analysis. These patients may require special consideration that needs further investigation.

Conclusion

This analysis shows that the combination of once-daily tiotropium + olodaterol demonstrated significant improvements from baseline for lung function and symptomatic response in all groups, which were improved versus monotherapies or placebo in most age subgroups. The combination of tiotropium + olodaterol was also well tolerated in older patients, with a similar safety profile to that of the overall patient population.

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Author contributions

The authors meet the criteria for authorship as recommended by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. All authors contributed towards data analysis, drafting and critically revising the paper, and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work. They take full responsibility for the scope, direction, content, and editorial decisions relating to the manuscript, were involved at all stages of development, and have approved the submitted manuscript.

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