

# Description of omalizumab use for the treatment of asthma after four years of experience

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## Background

Omalizumab's labelled indication is the treatment of IgE mediated asthma. It was approved for its use in our hospital in 2008. In 2011 it became necessary to develop a protocol which clarified patient selection and treatment withholding criteria.

## Objectives

To describe the patients treated with omalizumab, focusing on whether they match our protocol's usage criteria or not.

## Methods

- All asthma patients treated with omalizumab from 2008 to 2012 were included
- Data obtained from electronic clinical records:
  - Treatment period
  - Other medications for asthma,
  - Basal IgE
  - Adherence to the treatment
  - Omalizumab dosage
  - Hospitalizations and emergency department visits before and after treatment

### Omalizumab usage protocol in Cruces University Hospital

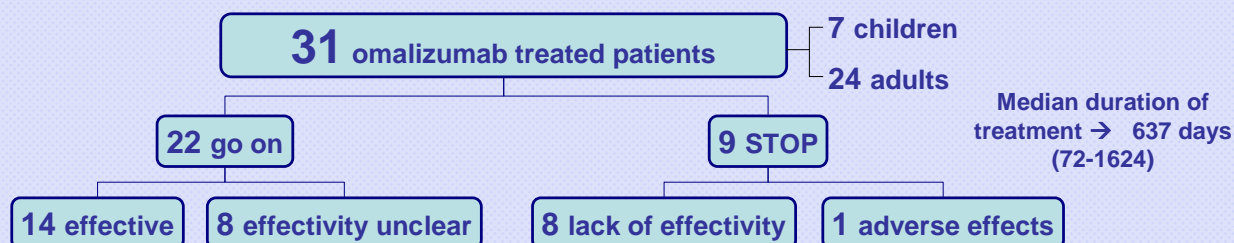
#### Treatment starting criteria

- Uncontrolled severe asthma treated with an optimized therapy
- Non-smoker patient
- Basal IgE > 76 UI/mL
- At least three emergency department visits or one hospitalization in previous year

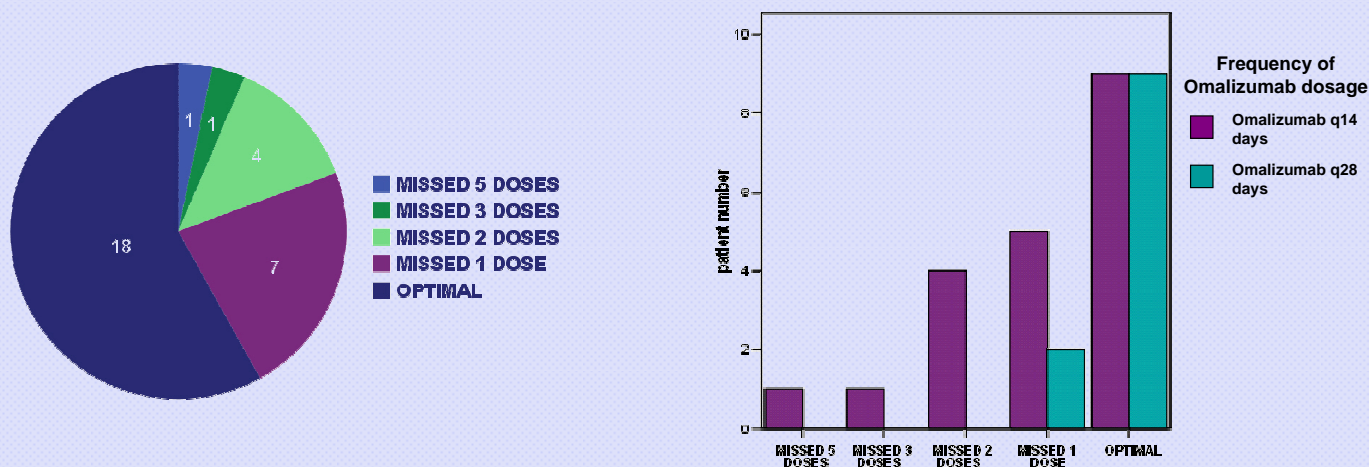
#### Treatment withholding criteria

- Evaluation after 16 weeks and stop if treatment shows no benefit

## Results



### ADHERENCE TO OMALIZUMAB TREATMENT



- Previous asthma therapy included montelukast or theophylline in 19 patients (61%).
- Basal IgE was below 76 UI/mL in one patient.
- 13 patients had no pre-treatment hospitalizations nor emergency department visits.

## Conclusion

Our patients still need to be selected better, although most of the protocol discrepancies correspond to patients who started before the protocol was implemented. The protocol requirement with less compliance was the emergency department use.