A randomized, crossover trial comparing the efficacy and safety of fesoterodine and extendedrelease oxybutynin in children with overactive bladder with 12-month extension on fesoterodine: The FOXY study

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Abstract

Introduction: We sought to assess and compare safety and efficacy of fesoterodine and oxybutynin extended-release in the treatment of pediatric overactive bladder (OAB).

Methods: We conducted a non-inferiority, randomized, double-blind, crossover trial comparing fesoterodine 4–8 mg and oxybutynin 10–20 mg QD in children with OAB aged 5–14 years (2015–2018). Every child received the first medication for eight weeks, followed by crossover to the second antimuscarinic after a three-days washout. Dose up-titration was possible at mid-course. Patients could enter a fesoterodine 12-month extension. Endpoints were assessed through changes on voiding diaries, Patient's Perception of Bladder Condition score (PPBC), adverse events, vital signs, electrocardiogram, post-void residual, urinalysis, and blood tests. The Wilcoxon rank sum and Wilcoxon signed rank tests were used for statistical analysis.

Results: A total of 62 patients were randomized (two early dropouts). Expected class effects (dry mouth/constipation) were present but no significant difference was observed. There was a 10.1 beats/minute increase in heart rate with fesoterodine (p<0.01) (oxybutynin -1.9 beats/min; p=ns). No life-threatening or serious adverse events occurred. Efficacy was similar for both drugs. Bladder capacity improved over the 16 months of the study; baseline capacity of 125 mL (44.5% expected

bladder capacity for age [%EBC]) to 171 mL (53.9%EBC) at the end of the extension phase. No clinical or statistical difference was shown between efficacy measures for fesoterodine or oxybutynin. **Conclusions:** The use of fesoterodine or oxybutynin appears as safe and effective for the treatment of OAB in children. Based on our study, long-term treatment to achieve the ultimate goal of urinary continence is needed in this population.

Introduction

Overactive bladder (OAB) is defined as: "urinary urgency, usually with frequency and nocturia, with or without urge incontinence, in the absence of UTI or other pathology." [1] Lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) are a burdensome healthcare issue, accounting for up to 40% of pediatric-urology visits, [2] and OAB has an estimated prevalence of 15-20% in children. [3-4] LUTS are recognized as having harmful impact on children's quality of life, including poor self-esteem, social isolation and behavioural changes. [5]

Conservative measures are the backbone of OAB treatment and should not be neglected. When they are insufficient to treat symptoms, other options should be considered. Antimuscarinics are the first-line pharmacologic OAB therapy, [6] but their use has not been as extensively studied in children. Oxybutynin (Oxy) immediate-release (IR) has long been the sole FDA-approved antimuscarinic for pediatric OAB treatment. Its treatment-emergent adverse reactions (TEAR) (xerostomia, dry eyes/skin, constipation, flushing, blurred vision, dizziness, sleep difficulties) have also been reported in children and are often the reason for dose reduction or discontinuation. [7-9] The extended-release (ER) Oxy (OxyER) formulation has been shown to be superior to IR in various studies, [10-12] but its safety and efficacy in children has not been established. [13]

In January 2017, propiverine, used in Europe for many years, was approved by Health Canada for OAB treatment in adults and children. Other antimuscarinic agents are currently exclusively approved for OAB treatment in adults.

Fesoterodine (Feso) (5-hydroxy-methyltolterodine prodrug, ER antimuscarinic) was approved in Canada in 2012. It has demonstrated significant improvement against placebo in OAB symptoms and quality of life in adults in phase III trials. [14-15, 29] Feso is administered daily (4-8mg tablets).

Given the trivial number of officially approved pharmacological options for children and considering that their use is limited by sub-optimal clinical response or TEAR, there is a need for additional drugs to gain approval by recognized authorities, especially ER formulations to improve compliance and decrease TEAR. Our hypothesis is that Feso and OxyER are safe and effective for the treatment of OAB in children. Our main objective was to assess the safety of fesoterodine (Toviaz®) and OxyER (Ditropan XL®) in children with OAB. Our secondary objectives were to compare the short-term efficacy of both medications, and to evaluate the long-term efficacy of Feso.

Methods

Study population

All patients underwent urotherapy before initiating any medication: resolution of constipation, good hydration habits, voiding schedule and optimal voiding position. Anomaly on flow rate electromyography (EMG) (dyssynergia, staccato, etc.) would lead to physiotherapy/biofeedback with bladder retraining for 3-6 months before antimuscarinics are initiated. Prior to inclusion, questionnaire, physical exam, urinalysis/cultures and uroflows/EMG were obtained and normal flow rate index was confirmed.

Patients attending pediatric-urology clinic for LUTS were offered to enter the trial if they fulfilled inclusion and exclusion criteria (Appendix 1). If symptoms did not improve with conservative measures with or without trial of IR Oxy, and less than 65% of the expected bladder capacity (%EBC) for age was confirmed (30 + (age in years x 30) mL) [1] on a 3-day voiding diary, a single long-acting antimuscarinic (Feso or OxyER) was initiated. Subjects were randomly assigned (1:1) by pharmacy. Patients completing the crossover study were eligible to enrol in a 12-months Feso open-label extension study. Patients having completed the crossover study were eligible to enrol in a 12-month Feso open-label extension study if they demonstrated good tolerance to Feso.

Study design (Figure 1)

We conducted a single center, prospective, non-inferiority, double-blind, crossover, randomized trial (2015-18). Our main objective was to assess safety of Feso (Toviaz®) and OxyER (Ditropan XL®) in children with OAB. Our secondary objectives were to compare the short-term efficacy of both medications, and evaluate long-term efficacy of Feso in an open-label 12-months extension. Both trials were granted non-objection letters from Health Canada and approved by our Institutional Review Board. Parents provided written consent.

Study power was based on efficacy endpoint. To estimate sample size, we assumed that patients to be included were refractory to conservative treatment (success <50% improvement). Sample size was estimated for 2x2 crossover design for testing non-inferiority, using PASS 13 (Power Analysis and Sample Size Software (2014)). The total sample size was set at ≥56 patients with complete data to achieve 80% power, one-sided alpha 2.5%, 15% margin of non-inferiority and 0.31 for coefficient of variance. Allowing 10% dropout (6 patients), we planned to recruit 62 patients.

Prior to and at first visit (V1), children and their parents were again educated on conservative treatment of OAB (timed voiding, adequate voiding technique, fluid management, and bowel management if necessary) and were instructed to reinforce those measures and to continue them throughout the course of the trial. Study design is detailed in Figure 1 and Appendix 2.

Safety assessment

The primary endpoint was to assess safety of Feso and OxyER. Safety was evaluated on the basis of TEAR at the end of each crossover phase, and every 4 months during the extension phase, using

medical history, physical exam, PVR (bladder scan), vital signs, triplicate 12-lead ECG and laboratory parameters.

Efficacy assessment

The secondary endpoints were to compare the short-term efficacy of Feso and OxyER and to assess the long-term efficacy of Feso. Efficacy was objectively quantified using 3-day voiding diary (VD) at each visit. The primary efficacy variable was change in mean voided volume. Secondary efficacy variables were: urinary frequency, urgency (grade 2-3) and urge incontinence episodes/24hrs. We calculated the relative expected bladder capacity (%EBC) by dividing mean voided volume on VD by EBC for age. Efficacy was also subjectively evaluated using the patient perception of bladder condition (PPBC) scale (Appendix 3) [16]. Finally, pharmacists calculated medication adherence based on returned pill containers.

Statistical analysis

Quantitative variables are described as mean \pm SD, and qualitative variables as frequencies and percentages. Parametric (F test or t test) or nonparametric (Kruskal-Wallis, Wilcoxon rank-sum) tests were used to compare continuous data by independent groups after normality verification; chi-square or exact tests used for categorical data comparisons. The McNemar's test was used to compare paired binary data and the Wilcoxon signed-rank test for paired continuous data. To test the primary and secondary crossover outcomes, mixed linear regression models were fitted for continuous outcomes and generalized estimating equation (GEE) logistic models for binary outcomes. Statistical analyses were performed using SAS Statistical Software v.9.4 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA) with a two-sided significance level set at p<0.05.

Results

The study screened 70 patients and enrolled 62 patients (38 boys, 24 girls). Mean age was 8.5 years (range: 5-12). Demographic details are provided in Table 1. We had two early drop-outs (2 boys) not included in the analysis. There were no missed visits and no loss to follow-up.

In the extension phase, we had 26 children. Two children were excluded because they took the medication for only 1 month and then switched back to OxyER for efficacy reasons and 1 child dropped-out after V6 due to anxiety toward blood sampling.

Safety

There were no life-threatening or serious adverse events during the study. Expected class TEAR were observed such as dry mouth and constipation (Table 2). No statistical difference between the two drugs was demonstrated.

Cardiovascular TEAR were observed but none were severe. There was no change in blood pressure but one patient experienced an increased QTcB interval during the crossover phase. This patient was receiving OxyER and QTcB normalised rapidly on repeated ECG 4 and 12 days later, without treatment. Ten asymptomatic >20% elevations of heart rate (HR) were observed in the crossover phase; 9/10 were taking Feso. At baseline, mean HR was 85.4 heartbeat/minute. Mean HR

after 2 months of treatment with OxyER and Feso was 83.5 and 95.6 beats/min, respectively. From baseline, there was an increase in HR of 10.1 beats/minute (p<0.01) with Feso vs. OxyER (-1.9 beats/min, p=ns). Five of these events occurred with Feso 8mg and three with concomitant ADHD medication, and recovered once the dosage was decreased or medication changed. One child had an elevated HR on both antimuscarinics. This patient also had an increase in his ADHD medication during the trial, and this type of side effect is also possible with this class of medication and could explain his HR increase with both medications.

In the extension phase, one patient had QTcB increase and 7 had HR increases, all without symptom. Of these 7 children, four returned to normal HR without intervention, supporting the inherent variability for this parameter in children. Two decreased the dosage and one stopped the medication, HR normalizing afterward.

A total of 15 UTI occurred in 10 different patients during the crossover segment. All of these infections were in female participants (7 had prior UTI). There was no difference between the two drugs. One of those patients was excluded from the study because of recurrent UTI with an increased post-void residual. She developed *de novo* detrusor sphincter dyssynergia not present on initial flow rate. In the 12-months extension phase, there were 5 UTI episodes reported in 3 female participants; two participants also had a UTI in the crossover segment. None had elevated post-void residual.

Efficacy

The EBC was adjusted to the age of the child at the visit, therefore did compensate for the growth of the child. In general, the normal growth of a child over the 12-months of the study (V1-V7) would mean an increase EBC of 30 mL between the start (125ml) to the end (155ml) of trial, without change in %EBC. %EBC mildly improved during the course of the crossover study (Table 3). Using specific patients on the extension segment, we noted an improved %EBC of almost 10% over the course of the 12-months.

Changes in 24h frequency, urgency and 24h urinary incontinence were equivalent between the 2 drugs. The PPBC score was not significantly different between Feso and OxyER (3.5 versus 3.3, respectively; p=0.12). At the end of the crossover phase, we observed a significant improvement from baseline for each parameter (p<0.0001) (Table 4).

In the extension phase, parameters were also improved at V7 compared to baseline. The PPBC score was at 3.3 at V7 but seemed to continue to improve at V8, 1 or 2 months after participants had stopped the study medication (2.6).

The adherence to medication remained above 90%.

Post-study data

To document long-term evolution, we retrieved information on the 34 patients not enrolled for the extension phase. Twenty-three of these 34 children (68%) are now continent (mean follow-up 18 months). Of the 26 children that enrolled in the extension phase, 23 children completed the 12-month extension phase and 18 are now continent (78%). Due to lack of improvement in symptoms or %EBC,

some patients underwent treatment escalation to dual treatment (antimuscarinic + mirabegron) [21] or switched to mirabegron [22]. Active treatment at last follow-up visit is shown in Table 5.

Discussion

We present the first prospective, randomized study comparing OxyER to fesoterodine for the treatment of OAB in children. This condition is very bothersome and effective and well-tolerated treatments are needed. Treatment objectives are to improve quality of life by diminishing episodes of urinary incontinence, urgency and by improving bladder capacity. Our double-blind crossover study showed that both, Feso and OxyER, were well-tolerated and safe. Both groups had similar demographics, and efficacy results at the end. Feso and OxyER had similar TEAR profiles and both dosages appeared safe to use in children.

Increase in HR is a well-known class effect of antimuscarinics. The dose-effect correlation on HR elevation was demonstrated in a randomised trial (Feso 4-mg/day and supra-therapeutic 28-mg/day versus placebo). There was a mean HR elevation of 3 beats/minutes for the 4-mg/day dosage and 11 beats/minutes with 28-mg/day dosage. There was no change in QTc measures with either dosage. [26] In a phase 3 placebo-controlled study, the mean HR increase with Feso 4-mg/day and 8-mg/day was 3-4 beats/minutes and 3-5 beats/minutes. [14] Nitti and al. compared the mean HR change with placebo, 4-mg/day and 8-mg/day. There was a change of 1, 3 and 4 beats/minutes respectively. [15] Variation in HR was studied with oxybutynin IR versus placebo and no difference was noted. [17] Similarly to those studies, we observed more HR increase with Feso than with OxyER. It also occurred more often with 8-mg than 4-mg. We noted that some children with elevated HR at 4-mg/day also had concomitant changes in their ADHD medications. Elevation in blood pressure and HR is also well-described for ADHD medications, mostly with amphetamines and atomoxetine. [18] It is possible that these elevations were secondary to ADHD medication or could have been worsened by the simultaneous use of both medications. In conclusion, no significant clinical event occurred because of these HR elevations. In fact, a systematic review on the subject by Fleming et al. in Lancet confirmed that at a mean age of 8 years (patients in our study), the mean HR is 90 beats/min and the 99th percentile is at 120 beats/min. [30] Therefore, our patients' HR did fall within normal limits but exceeded the limit we set in the protocol ($\leq 20\%$ increase from baseline) for safety reasons. Similar to the literature, we had no concern about QTcB changes with the 2 drugs. Nonetheless, we would suggest a closer cardiac monitoring of children being on both ADHD meds and fesoterodine.

Patients presented UTI during the study and they occurred only in girls. There was no difference in UTI rates between the two drugs. Similarly to the current literature, the incidence of UTI does not seem to be increased from the general children population by either Feso or OxyER. [15][19]

As OAB is sometimes associated with ADHD [23-24], Feso seemed to be an interesting choice of medication since it has very low likelihood of crossing the blood-brain barrier. [27] We had a low incidence of central nervous system adverse event in our study. OxyER had a tendency toward more events of irritability and insomnia over Feso (p=ns) (table 2). To support this observation, in a phase I, 4-treatment, crossover, double-blind, placebo- and positive-controlled study in elderly healthy

volunteers, there was no difference in cognitive impairment between placebo and Feso. [20] Another study evaluating cognitive impact of antimuscarinics, Oxy was associated with more cognitive impairment than other antimuscarinics. [25] Evidently, our trial was not designed to study this outcome specifically but further research on the subject would be interesting.

%EBC improved over time. The major factor in improving bladder capacity with antimuscarinics has been associated with treatment duration. Using %EBC automatically corrects EBC according to the age of the patients at a given time. Normal growth would keep the EBC stable over time. In a study of 27 children with daytime incontinence that switched from oxybutynin IR to OxyER, there was an improvement of 15% (p<0.01) in %EBC. [10] In our study, on top of the improvement in urge and urge incontinence, we had 10% improvement of %EBC after one year of treatment on fesoterodine (V2-V7), reflecting the potential efficacy of the medication.

There was no significant statistical or clinical difference in efficacy between the two drugs. There was an improvement from baseline with all variables with both medications. In the extension phase, the improvement was progressive. It was interesting to see that even though the mean voided volume deteriorated between V7 and V8 (11 of the 24 children either stopped or decreased the dosage of their medication before V8), the PPBC score improved. We think that children who stopped their medication probably had a better perception of their condition being off medication and having fewer side effects, making their quality of life better.

Beyond the study period, most children became completely continent (69%) and a few were able to taper off medication (33%) (Table 5). The most important thing that we get from these data is that OAB is a chronic condition that necessitates an extended medical follow-up, sometimes attempting several approaches/drugs before finding the one that fulfills the patient's needs. Conservative measures need to be reinforced at every visit, and compliance to those measures and medication, need to be verified. [28] Any modification in concomitant medication must be taken into account regarding pharmacologic interactions and potential new side effects, especially for patients with ADHD.

Limitations

Although we performed a prospective, randomized double-blind study, the trial remains of moderate size for pediatric OAB, as it was designed as a non-inferiority study. Also, the trial was a single-center study; a multicenter trial would have helped making the findings more generalizable. We did not include a placebo-controlled group nor made a comparison with oxy IR. In addition, we could have included an extension phase for OxyER but we report on their outcome (table 5). The extension phase was only offered to children responding to fesoterodine, this could have introduced a selection bias contributing to the improvement of PPBC scores.

Conclusions

The use of fesoterodine or OxyER appears to be safe and effective treatment options for OAB in children. The efficacy of both drugs was similar. Based on the 12-months extension phase and beyond, OAB in children needs long-term treatment to achieve the ultimate goal of urinary continence.

Take-home message

Long-acting formulations of oxybutynin and fesoterodine are effective in the treatment of overactive bladder in pediatrics as they improve median voided volume, quality of life and number of incontinence episodes with few side effects.

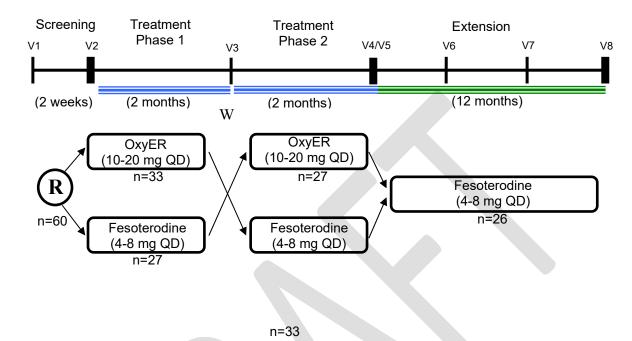
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Figures and Tables

Fig. 1. Study design.



R: randomization; V: visit

: Crossover period

Extension period on fesoterodine

V1–V2: Washout from any antimuscarinics.

V2: patients were randomized in a 1:1 ratio to Group Feso-Oxy or Group Oxy-Feso.

V3: 3-day washout period prior to second medication. (W)

V4: patients/parents were asked to identify their favourite treatment phase.

If they chose fesoterodine, they could enter the extension phase if they wanted.

See Appendix 2 for details

Table 1. Study participants' description randomized in the crossover phase and included in the 12-months open-label extension on fesoterodine **Crossover study Extension phase** $Mean \pm SD$ $Mean \pm SD$ $n=60^*$ n=26**Groupe 1** Groupe 2 **Total** p (oxy-feso) (feso-oxy) n=33n=27Male (%)19 (57.6%) 0.79 17 (63%) 36 (60%) 17(65%) 0.95 Age, (year) 8.5 ± 1.8 8.4 ± 1.9 8.5 ± 1.8 8.8 ± 2.2 ADHD medication 6 (18.2%) 2 (7.4%) 0.28 8 Weight, (kg) 29.3±8.9 28.1 ± 7.3 0.8 28.8 ± 8.2 29.0 ± 9.8 Height, (m) 1.31 ± 0.14 1.29 ± 0.1 0.74 1.30 ± 0.12 1.32 ± 0.14 BMI, kg/m^2 16.6 ± 2.4 1.00 16.6 ± 2 16.6 ± 2.2 16.6 ± 2.0

*62 randomized patients. 70 patients were screened, two children were excluded from analysis: 1 did not initiate the treatment and the second did not complete the first phase. 58 children completed the crossover phase of the trial (self-exclusion [1], recurrent urinary tract infection [1] between V3 and V4). ADHD: attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder; BMI: body mass index; SD: standard deviation.

Table 2. Specific treatment-emergent adverse reactions					
•	Crossover phase			Extension	
				phase	
Body system	Total	Fesoterodine	OxyER	n=	Total
	(%)	n=events	n= events	events	(%)
Cardiovascular					
Variation blood pressure	0	0	0	1	3.8
Variation in heart rate (≥20%)	14.5	93	1	7^{4}	26.9
Increased QTcB	1.6	0	1	1	3.8
Flushing (skin, cheeks)	3.2	2	0	0	0
Genitourinary					
Urinary tract infection	16.1	7	8	5	11.5
Increased PVR	1.6	0	1	0	0
Gastrointestinal					
Nasal bleeding/epistaxis	6.4	2	2	3	1.1
Dry mouth/eyes/hands	43.5	17	17	11	42.3
Constipation	13.3	5	3	5	19.2
Diarrhea	8.0	1	4	0	0
Abdominal pain	20.9	8	7	6	23.0
Appetite modification	8.0	2	4	0	0
Nausea/vomiting	4.8	2	1	2	7.6
Variation AST/ALT value ¹	1.6	1	0	1	3.8
Nervous system ²					
Headache	3.2	2	0	3	1.1
Irritability	6.4	2	3	4	15.3
Insomnia	1.6	0	1	0	0

¹Mild elevation at V4. One month later, the control was normal without intervention. ²Of the 6 children that experienced either irritability or insomnia, two had ADHD. ³Five of the HR increase occurred with Feso 8 mg and three with concomitant ADHD medication, and recovered once Feso dosage was decreased or changed to OxyER at crossover. ⁴Six of the 7 children with HR increase in extension phase were on Feso 8 mg. One on 4 mg also had increase in the dosing of his ADHD medication. AST/ALT: aspartate transaminase/alanine transaminase; PVR: post-void residual.

Table 3. Functional bladder capacity						
Period	Baseline		End of crossover V4		Extension phase V7 ²	
			(n=60)		(n=26)	
	Mean volume		Mean volume		Mean volume	
Bladder	(mL)	%EBC ¹	(mL)	%EBC	(mL)	%EBC
capacity	125	44.5	146	50.0	171	53.9^{3}

¹EBC was adjusted to the age of the child at each visit to compensate for the growth of the child ([age (years) + 1] x 30 mL). [1] The normal growth of a child over the 12-months of the study (V1–V7) would mean an increase EBC of 30 mL between baseline (125 ml) to the end of trial, without change in %EBC. ²%EBC was calculated at V7 because in the last four months of the extension phase, participants had the opportunity to decrease and stop the medication and consequently some patients could present worsening of their bladder capacity at V8, underestimating the gain in capacity.3: Comparing baseline %EBC vs. end of extension phase (n-26), p<0.05. %EBC: relative expected bladder capacity for age

Table 4. Efficacy variables						
		Crossover study			Extension	
	Baseline	Fesoterodine	OxyER	End of crossover (V4) n=60	V7 n=26	V8 n=26
Mean voided volume per micturition, (mL) (SD)	125 (53)	147 (56)*	156 (56)*	146 (53)*	171 (74)*	160 (90)#
Urinary frequency per 24h, mean (SD) [‡]	6.8 (2.4)	6.0 (2.2)*	5.9 (2.2)*	5.9 (2.6)*	5.8 (1.5)*	6.2 (2.2)#
Urinary incontinence per 24h, mean (SD) [‡]	1.8 (1.7)	1.0(1.1)*	0.9 (1.1)*	0.9 (1.2)*1	1.2 (1.7)*	1.2 (2.1)*
Grade 2-3 urgency episodes per 24 h, mean (SD) [‡]	1.7 (2.3)	1.0 (1.4)*	1.1 (1.4)*	1.0 (1.5)*	1.4 (2.3)#	1.3 (2.1)#
PPBC score (SD)	3.6 (1.1)	3.5 (1.2)#	3.3 (1.2)*	3.4 (1.2)*	3.2 (1.4)*	2.6 (1.3)*

The primary efficacy variable was the change in mean voided volume, calculated using the 3-day VD, excluding the morning void. ‡Secondary efficacy variables, calculated with the 3-day VD. Efficacy was also subjectively measured using the patient perception of bladder condition (PPBC) scale (Appendix 2) [17] at baseline, at the end of each crossover phase, and every 4 months during the extension phase. *Comparison from baseline to end of crossover (n=60) or end of extension phase (n=26), p<0.0001. #Comparison from baseline to end of crossover (n=60) or end of extension phase (n=26), p<0.01. ¹At the end of the crossover phase, 28 patients achieved daytime continence (15 Feso, 13 OxyER). SD: Standard deviation

Table 5. Long-term evolution a	fter crossover study or beyond	l the 12-month
extension phase		
	Participants in the	Participants in the
	crossover study only ¹	extension phase ²
	n=34	n=26
Gender (M/F)	19/15	17/9
Active treatment at last visit		
None	12	9
OxyER	11	2
Fesoterodine	0	5
Mirabegron	4	3
Dual treatment*	6	7
Lost to followup	1	0
Continent	23 (68%)	18 (69%)

¹Patients not participating to the extension phase, therefore ending at Visit 4, active treatment after the study if symptoms persisted. 34 of the 60 patients. Mean follow-up 18 months. ²Patients who were on the 12-month extension phase with fesoterodine, active treatment after Visit 8 if symptoms persisted. 26 remaining patients of the initial 60 patients. Mean followup 9 months. *Dual: antimuscarinic plus mirabegron [25].

Appendix 1. Inclusion/exclusion criteria

Exclusion criteria

- Dysfunctional voiding (bad voiding habits, detrusor-sphincter dyssynergia (DSD))
- Post-void residual (PVR) > 20 mL
- Polyuria (> 75 mL/kg/24 h)
- Nephrogenic or central diabetes insipidus
- Constipation or urinary tract infection (UTI) (eligible is successfully treated)
- Untreated or uncontrolled arterial hypertension
- QTcB interval > 460 ms
- Regarding cardiovascular safety, a systolic or diastolic blood pressure variation of 20 or 15 mmHg, respectively, or a 20% increase in heart rate at rest was deemed significant. Similarly, a QTcB interval ≥460ms or any increase of 30ms on follow-up ECG was considered concerning and would engender an evaluation in cardiology, dose reduction or drug discontinuation.
- Serum creatinine ≥ 2 times the upper limit of normal (ULN)
- AST or ALT ≥ to 2 times the ULN or bilirubin \ge 1.5 time the ULN
- Known hypersensitivity to either fesoterodine or oxybutynin or any contraindication to the use of these medications according to product monography
- Consumption of a medication known to interact with fesoterodine that cannot be discontinued
- Pregnancy or intention to become pregnant
- Other clinically significant unstable medical condition

Inclusion criteria

- Male or female \geq 5 years old and \leq 14 years old
- OAB diagnosis according to the International Children Continence Society (ICCS) and less than 65% of the expected mean bladder capacity for age is confirmed ([age (years) + 1] x 30 mL) on a 3-day voiding diary.
- Weight and height are within the normal percentile (3rd to 97th percentile) and weight is $\geq 20 \text{ kg}$ (3rd percentile of a 8 y.o. child, boy or girl), according to the CDC growth chart
- Ability to swallow pills
- Subjects/parents (vs. legal guardian) agree to participate to the following study and sign the informed consent/assent.
- Normal flow rate index.
- Subjects/parents (or legal guardian) are able to comply with the study requirements and with the medication restrictions.
- Female subjects of childbearing potential must have a negative serum or urine

pregnancy test at enrollment and must agree to maintain highly effective birth control during the study. Sexually active male subjects agree to use a barrier method of birth control with female partner for the duration of the study and at least one month after ending study treatment. Sexually active male subjects agree to use a condom for the duration of the study and for at least one month after ending study treatment and the female partner to use a reliable form of birth control for the duration of the study and for at least one month after ending study treatment.

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Appendix 2. Details on study methods

- V1–V2: Washout from any antimuscarinics. Normal flow rate index confirmed. Confirm conservative OAB treatment (timed voiding, adequate voiding technique, fluid management, and bowel management if necessary).
- Safety measures at every V: vital signs (blood pressure, heart rate, triplicate 12-lead ECG (QTcB), and urinalysis.
- Laboratory parameters (complete blood count, renal and liver function tests) at V1, 3, 4 and 7.
- V2: patients were randomized in a 1:1 ratio to Group Feso-Oxy or Group Oxy-Feso.
- 3-day Voiding diary (VD) provided at each visit.
- V3: 3-day washout period prior to second medication.
- At mid-course of each phase (after 4 weeks), parents were offered the possibility to double the medication dose (Feso 8mg or Oxy 20mg QD) during a telephone interview with the research nurse.
- V4: patients/parents were asked to identify their favourite treatment phase.
- If they chose fesoterodine, they could enter the extension phase if they wanted. For patients that entered the extension study, the last visit of the crossover study (V4) would also serve as the first visit of the extension study (V5- time- 4 months).
- At V5, patients from Group Feso-Oxy restarted Feso at the last well-tolerated dose, and patients from Group Oxy-Feso continued Feso at the same dose.
- V6: dose increase was again discussed if the patient was still on the 4-mg dose.
- V6, V7, and V8 occurred at 4-month intervals after V5.
- If patients experienced significant TEAR or if the patient was dry (no incontinence), without grade 2 or 3 urgency episodes, and with %EBC consistently ≥ 75% on VD, dose tapering or cessation was considered.
- If dose tapering was initiated at V6, a nurse contacted the parents one month after the changes to either return to a higher dose or to consider medication cessation. At V7, dose tapering was initiated for one month, followed by medication cessation, unless the patient was still symptomatic. In that case, dose tapering was to be initiated two months after V7, followed by medication cessation one month later. Therefore, every patient had attempted medication cessation prior to V8.

Appendix 3. The patient perception of bladder condition (PPBC) scale

My bladder condition:	
1	Does not cause me any problems at all
2	Causes me some very minor problems
3	Causes me some minor problems
4	Causes me (some) moderate problems
5	Causes me severe problems
6	Causes me many severe problems