



Narrative review to capture patients' perceptions and opinions about non-response and response to biological therapy for severe asthma

Courtney Coleman¹, Ekaterina Khaleva², Anna Rattu¹, Betty Frankemölle¹, Hanna Nielsen³, Graham Roberts² and Clare Williams¹ on behalf of the 3TR Respiratory Work Package

¹European Lung Foundation, Sheffield, UK. ²Clinical and Experimental Sciences and Human Development and Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Southampton, Southampton, UK. ³Faculty of Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.

Corresponding author: Courtney Coleman (courtney.coleman@europeanlung.org)



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When considering response and non-response to biological therapy, people with severe asthma value participation in everyday activities, reduced exacerbations and reduced exposure to oral corticosteroids <https://bit.ly/3Cix28n>

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Abstract

Background There are now many biological therapies to treat severe asthma. To assess which work best for which patient, we need to develop definitions of response. This narrative review aims to capture severe asthma patients' perceptions about non-response and response to biological therapy.

Methods Four bibliographic databases were searched from inception to September 2021. Grey literature was searched with the involvement of patient representatives. A thematic approach was used for synthesis. No qualitative studies specifically explore patients' perspectives on response to biological therapy for severe asthma. Three papers and one published asthma patient interview were included. Relevant grey literature was included from online discussion forums, blogs and social media websites.

Results Adult patients framed positive response to biological therapy in terms of reduced burden of disease and treatment. Both were multifaceted. Some patients experienced reduced benefit from biological therapy over time. There was a group of patients who described a limited response or non-response to biological therapy. This was framed within the context of continuing hospitalisation and oral corticosteroid treatment. The speed of onset of benefit was felt to be important by some.

Conclusions Definitions of non-response and response need to be patient-centred, yet there is a complete lack of qualitative research focused on this topic. By combining relevant published and grey literature we have provided a description of adult patients' perceptions of response to biological therapy in severe asthma. We now need to understand the views of children and adolescents with severe asthma and their carers, and diverse patient experiences in real-world settings.

