

The efficacy & safety of tropsium chloride in combination with tamsulosin for patients with lower urinary tract symptoms related to benign prostatic hyperplasia

Abstract

Background: While α -blockers are recognized to be effective in management of LUTS associated with BPH, the role of antimuscarinic agents still needs to be addressed for the treatment of bladder over activity related to BPH. Our aim was to evaluate the efficacy, safety and tolerability of using a combination of Tamsulosin & Tropsium chloride for men with LUTS related to BPH.

Methods: Prospective, controlled, clinical trial, included 71 symptomatic patients presenting with lower urinary tract symptoms secondary to benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). Patients were randomly divided into two groups, group 1 (n=36) treated with tamsulosin & tropsium chloride and group 2 (n=35) treated with tamsulosin only. International Prostate Symptom Score (IPSS), with its quality of life score, post-void residual volume (PVR) and maximum flow rate (Qmax) was evaluated & they were followed for 2 weeks of treatment.

Results: The mean age in group 1 was 61.9 ± 7.97 years (range 50 to 73 years) while in group 2 it was 63.1 ± 7.43 years (range 56 to 73), the score of all the 3 irritative symptoms, dropped down in both groups, but the mean change was only significant for nocturia, and in favor of group 1. The significant difference in the mean change in obstructive symptoms collectively, was in favor of group 2, while changes in the objective parameters of obstruction; PVR and Qmax, were not significant between the 2 groups. The IPSSQoL score was significantly decrease in group 1, in comparison with group 2, which mean a better QoL in the group treated with Tropsium. In both group there was a significant change in the IPSS from baseline but no statistically significant difference in the mean of change between the 2 groups.

Conclusions: Tropsium chloride proved to be effective in controlling storage symptoms especially nocturia, which had a significant impact in improving QoL. Tropsium chloride proved to be safe when used for BPH patients, as there was no retention of urine and no significant adverse changes in PVR and Qmax.

Keywords: benign prostatic hyperplasia, overactive bladder, tropsium chloride, tamsulosin

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Issam Salman Al Azzawi,¹ Omar M Shakir²

¹Professor in urology in Al-Mustasyria College of medicine, Iraq

²Lecturer in AL Fallujah collage of medicine, Iraq

Correspondence: Omar M Shakir, Lecturer in AL Fallujah collage of medicine & urosurgeon in AL Fallujah teaching hospital, Al-anbar, Iraq, Tel 009647905574549, Email omermhmoood@yahoo.com

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Introduction

In BPH, the clinical symptoms of bladder outlet obstruction (BOO) are most likely due to combination of dynamic component mediated by prostatic smooth muscle contraction due to stimulation of Alpha adrenoceptor static component mediated by mass related increase in urethral resistance.¹

Literature showing that above fifty years of life, 25% of men suffer from lower urinary tract symptom (LUTS) that include voiding & storage symptoms, after age of 75 years, the percentage become 50%, in addition to that storage symptoms usually occur in 50-70% of patients with BPH, They are more bothersome & affect quality of life (QoL) more than voiding symptoms, especially if they are associated with nocturia or incontinence.²⁻⁶

Many symptoms in men with BPH are related to obstruction induced changes in bladder function rather than to out flow obstruction directly.⁷

The causes of bladder over activity in men with BPH are not fully understood, and may be multi factorial, many pathophysiological

mechanisms were postulated that initial response of detrusor muscle to obstruction is the development of smooth muscle hypertrophy & prolonged increase in vesical pressure during urination causing ischemia & leading to ischemic damage to neurons within the bladder (i.e denervation). Also there is evidence that obstruction may change neural-detrusor response that may lead to decrease bladder contractility, impaired central processing & altered sensation.^{1,8}

Many researchers also found an increase in urinary level of nerve growth factor((NGF))* in patients with BOO with storage symptoms, which will decrease after successful medical treatment, and with obstruction, residual urine will increase & this will decrease the functional capacity of bladder & lead to frequency.⁹

Current medical treatment for BPH include (α adrenoceptor antagonists, 5 α -reductase inhibitors, Phytotherapy & recently Phosphodiesterase 5 inhibitors).¹⁰⁻¹³

Although voiding symptoms are usually alleviated by the use of medicines (alpha blockers, 5 alpha-reductase inhibitors) or by TURP, storage (irritative) symptoms continue in 30-65% of patients.²

A significant number of patients with storage symptoms, that affect their quality of life, are in need to be treated with drugs that are capable of controlling their detrusor overactivity, Antimuscarinic drugs may be suitable in this aspect.¹⁴⁻¹⁷

In human bladder, all muscarinic receptors (M1-M5) are found. But there is a predominance of M2&M3 receptors in detrusor muscles, with M2 receptor predominate in at least 3:1 over M3 receptor, but there is a believe that M3 is more important in contraction.¹⁷

Anti muscarinic drugs are usually competitive antagonist &act during the storage phase to decrease urgency, frequency & increasing bladder capacity.¹⁷

Our objective is to evaluate the efficacy, safety and tolerability of using a combination of Tamsulosin (α 1 blocker) & Trospium chloride (anticholinergic agent) for men with LUTS related to BPH.

Patients & methods

In this prospective clinical trial which was conducted from July 2015 to December 2016, 71 patients (50-73 years), presented to the our urology clinic (in outpatient clinic Yarmouk teaching

hospital in Baghdad-Iraq) who suffering from lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) secondary to benign prostatic hyperplasia(BPH) were consequently included. This study was approved by the ethical committee of our hospital.

Aim of the study was explained to the participant & verbal consent was obtained from them.

Randomization occurs by using two papers, one written on it 1 & other 2 & participant choice the paper randomly.

Assessment of patients was done via questionnaires that include sociodemographic variable such as name, age education, residency &contact information (mobile phone number).medical history such as chronic disease (D.M,HT...etc), a detailed history with implementation of IPSS (International prostatic symptom score) which is an 8 question (7 symptom questions +1 quality of life question) written screening tool used to screen for, rapidly diagnose, track the symptoms of and suggest management of the symptoms of the disease benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). Created in 1992 by the American Urological Association, it originally lacked the 8th QOL question, hence its original name: the American Urological Association symptom score (AUA-7) (See Table 1).¹⁸

Table 1 International prostate Symptom score

In the past month	Not at all	Less than 1 in 5 times	Less than half the time	About half the time	More than half the time	Almost always	Your score
Incomplete Emptying How often have you had the sensation of not emptying your bladder?	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Frequency How often have you had to urinate less than every two hours?	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Intermittency How often have you found you stopped and started again several times when you urinated?	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Urgency How often have you found it difficult to postpone urination?	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Weak stream How often have you had a weak urinary stream?	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Straining How often have you had to strain to start urination?	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Nocturia How many times you typically get up at night to urinate	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Total I-PPS score							
Score:	1-7: mild		8-9: moderate		20-35: severe		
Quality of life due to urinary symptoms	Delighted	Pleased	Mostly satisfied	Mixed	Mostly Dissatisfied	Unhappy	Terrible
If you were to spend the rest of your life with your urinary condition just the way it is now, how would you feel about that?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6

Physical examination (including DRE & Brief neurological examination) and investigations that include Lab. Investigations included Urinalysis, Blood urea, serum creatinine and Serum PSA. While imaging included Abdominal U/S (with concentration on prostate size & post voiding residue (PVR) and Uroflowmetry; to detect maximum flow rate (Qmax).

Inclusion criteria

- i. Age > 50 years.
- ii. Total IPSS 8 or more (moderate to severe symptoms).
- iii. Presence of Storage symptom (nocturia, urgency, frequency) with a minimum score of 3.

Exclusion criteria

- i. History of urinary retention < 12 months.
- ii. Men with clinically significant BOO (PVR > 100ml or maximum urinary flow rate < 5ml/sec in a total voided volume > 150).¹⁶
- iii. Previous prostatic or lower urinary tract surgery.
- iv. Current UTI.
- v. Bladder stone & tumor.
- vi. Use of an indwelling catheter or self catheterization program.
- vii. Neurogenic bladder.
- viii. Urethral stricture

The participant randomly by ----- allocated in to two groups

Group 1 (therapeutic)

This group treated with tamsulosin capsule 0.4mg once daily plus tropsium chloride tablet 20 mg twice daily 1 hour before meals.

Group 2 (controlled)

This group treated with tamsulosin capsule alone.

At the end of 2 weeks of treatment, therapeutic effect was assessed by re-evaluation of patients using

- i. IPSS/QoL.
- ii. Uroflowmetry.
- iii. Abdominal U/S for PVR.
- iv. History of retention of urine.
- v. Any side effect related to treatment.

Data entry was done with S.P.O.S version, qs used & t test for analysis of variables. Student's t test for comparison of means (quantitative data) & the chi-square test for the comparison of percentages (qualitative data). P. value considered significant when it is equal to or less than 0.05.

Results

In this prospective controlled study, 71 patients with moderate to severe LUTS were included. They were 36 in group 1 and 35 in group 2.

The mean age in group 1 was 61.9 ± 7.97 years (range 50 to 73 years) while in group 2 it was 63.1 ± 7.43 years (range 56 to 73) without a statistically significant difference (P = 0.792) as in Figure 1.

The mean value of prostatic size in group 1 was 37.1 ± 10.19 while in group 2 it was 33 ± 10.6 without a statistically significant difference (P = 0.285) as in Figure 1.

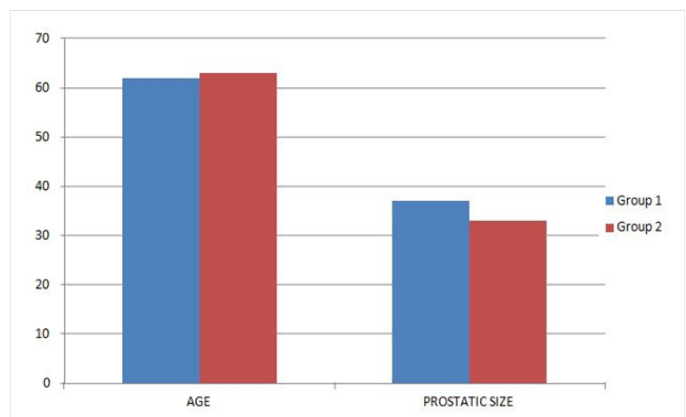


Figure 1 Mean age & prostatic size difference between the two groups.

After 2 weeks of treatment, patients in group 1 & 2 had significantly lower IPSS from baseline; in group 1 the mean of change - 8.3 ± 2.61, while in group 2 the mean of change was - 8.2 ± 3.63 & no statistically significant difference was observed between them (P = 0.909) as in Figure 2.

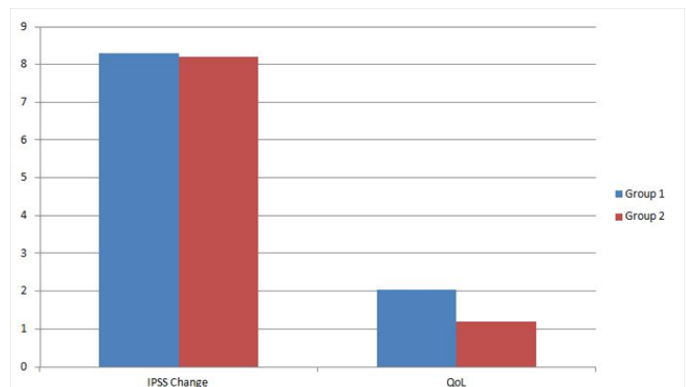


Figure 2 The mean difference in IPSS score & QoL change between the two groups.

Quality of life score was also improved significantly from baseline in both groups. Compared with the group 2, (mean of change - 1.2 ± 0.76), significant change in QoL subscore was demonstrated in group 1 (mean of change - 2.05 ± 0.94), (p = 0.018) as in Figure 2.

Changes in obstructive symptom score (incomplete emptying, intermittency, weak stream, straining) were: in group 1, the mean of change - 3.7 ± 2.02 while in group 2 the mean of change - 5.4 ± 1.53 with statistically significant difference was observed (P = 0.011) as in Figure 3.

Changes in maximum flow rate were: in group 2 mean of change was + 2.8 ± 3.35 while in group 1, mean of change was + 2.28 ± 1.75, with statistically no significant difference was observed (P = 0.810) as in Figure 3.

There was no significant difference in post voiding residual volume between the 2 groups (P = 0.266). Mean of change in group 1 - 7.6 ± 11, while mean of change in group 2 - 11.2 ± 7.9 as in Figure 3.

Urgency subscore was reduced significantly from baseline in both

groups. The group 2 mean of change -0.6 ± 0.50 . More reduction in IPSS urgency subscore was demonstrated in the group1 with a mean of change -1.15 ± 1.18 , but it was statistically non significant difference ($P=0.094$) as in Figure 4.

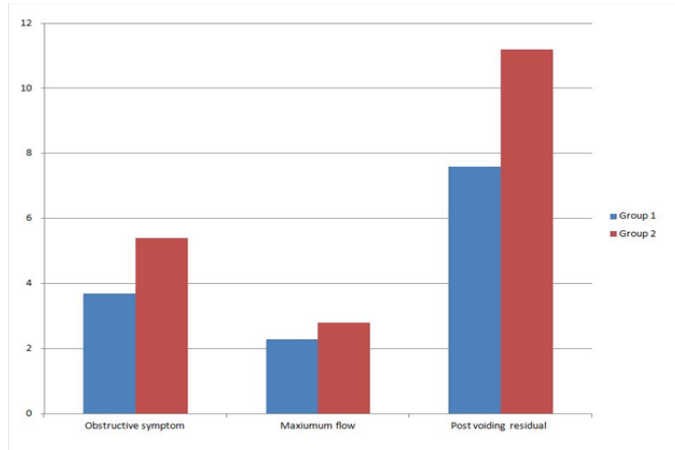


Figure 3 The mean difference in obstructive symptom score, Q max & post voiding residual change between the two groups.

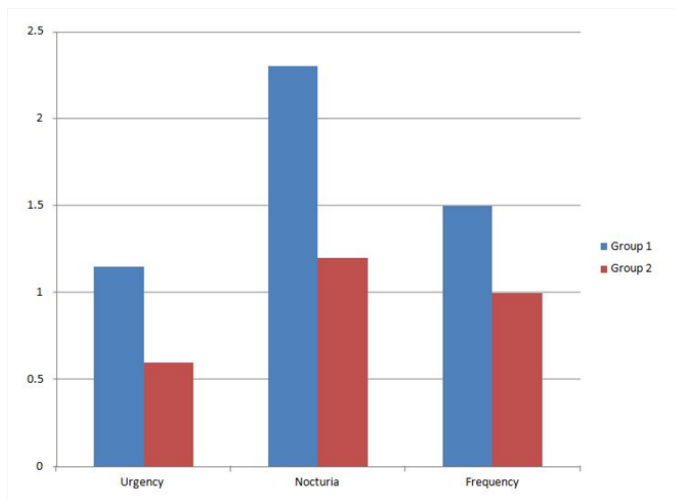


Figure 4 The mean difference in urgency, nocturia & frequency score change between the two groups.

Nocturia subscore was also reduced significantly from baseline in both groups. Compared with the group 2 (mean of change -1.2 ± 0.95), significant reduction in IPSS nocturia subscore was demonstrated in group 1 (mean of change -2.3 ± 0.73), ($p=0.04$) as in Figure 4.

Frequency subscore was reduced significantly from baseline in both groups. Compared with group2 (mean of change -1 ± 0.91), more reduction in IPSS frequency subscore was demonstrated in group1 (mean of change -1.5 ± 1.27), but it was statistically not significant difference ($P=0.180$) as in Figure 4.

Side effects of Tropsium chloride that observed were dry mouth in 10 patients (14.2%) and constipation in 2 patients (2.8%).

Discussion

In urologic practice, storage (Irritative) symptoms are commonly seen; both in BPH and non-BPH patients.⁴ The first line treatment is usually one of the antimuscarinic agents.

In general, The treatment of BPH depends on $\alpha 1$ blocker agents & 5 α reductase inhibitors, which are basically constructed to relieve obstruction, and there was a high precaution from using antimuscarinic drugs, but new studies reported an effective use of antimuscarinic agents for LUTS, without clinically significant effect on post voiding residual volume or increase risk of acute retention, especially when it is combined with an $\alpha 1$ blocker agent.¹⁰⁻¹²

Currently, many urologists worldwide are interested in using different antimuscarinic agents in combination with an $\alpha 1$ blocker agent, seeking for optimal therapeutic effect.

This study was conducted to evaluate the use of the antimuscarinic agent (tropsium chloride) for treatment of BPH symptoms.

We used Tropsium chloride because it is a quaternary amine compound & Due to its low lipophilicity it had very limited passage to CNS so it has no negative effect on cognitive functions that is especially important in elderly patients (like BPH patients). Plasma half life is 20 hours & 60% excreted unchanged in urine, which may exert a local effect on bladder in addition to its systemic effect.¹⁰

It has a high and comparable binding affinity to M2 and M3 receptor subtype.

In addition, we were interested in evaluating Tropsium chloride because no much studies available on its role in BPH/LUTS. And to be a controlled study, we divided our patients into two groups randomly & consequently; Group1 treated with tamsulosin & tropsium chloride, and group 2 treated with tamsulosin alone.

We used both objective parameters (Qmax, PVR) & subjective parameters (IPSS/QoL) to evaluate the effectiveness & safety of the drug. Baseline parameters like age, prostate size and pre-treatment IPSS were comparable in the two groups, which exclude their effect on the results. There was a significant change in the IPSS, in both groups, in relation to baseline score, (Table 2) which reflects the effectiveness of both treatment arms, but there was no statistically significant difference in the mean of change between the 2 groups.

The score of all the 3 irritative symptoms, dropped down in both groups, but the mean change was only significant for nocturia, and in favor of group 1 (Table 1), while the difference in the mean change for frequency and urgency, though clearly present, but it was not significant between the 2 groups.

Such non significant changes between the 2 treatment groups, for frequency and urgency, were also found in the studies on Solifenacin, while studies on Tolterodine showed a significant difference in these parameters (Table 3).

The significant difference in the mean change in obstructive symptoms collectively, was in favor of group 2 (Table 1), which may indicate some sort of less efficient voiding in the group treated with Tropsium chloride, but this was only a subjective finding, while changes in the objective parameters of obstruction; PVR and Q max, were not significant between the two groups.

Changes in Q max were also not significant in many similar studies using different antimuscarinics like Tolterodine, Solifenacin and Propiverine, while changes in PVR, unlike ours, were significant in many studies using the above mentioned antimuscarinics (Table 2), which may indicate a more safer effect for TR over other antimuscarinics in this aspect.

Table 2 The Mean value of different parameters, pre and post treatment in the two groups

Parameter	Group 1		Group 2		P.value
	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	
IPSS	17	8.82	18.4	10.2	0.909
QoL	4.49	2.49	4.2	3	0.018
Obstructive score	8.07	4.65	10.6	5.2	0.011
Q max	12.8	15.6	15	17.28	0.81
Nocturia	4.16	1.9	3.8	2.6	0.04
Urgency	2.57	1.33	1.8	1.2	0.0941
Frequency	2.24	0.74	2.2	1.2	0.18
PVR	29.83	27	28.1	23.8	0.266

Table 3 Comparisons between our studies and outcomes of five important randomized controlled trials

	Our study	Lee KS et al. ¹⁷	Kaplan SA et al. ¹⁹	Kaplan SA et al. ¹⁴	Chapple C et al. ¹⁶	Yamaguchi O et al. ¹⁵
Number	71	228	664	398	62	638
Agent/dose agent	TAM 0.4mg+TA M&TR 20mg	Doxazosin ER(4mg)/propiverine (20 mg) + doxazosin ER (4 mg)	Placebo/tolterodine ER(4mg)/ tamsulosin(0.4mg)/ both	Solifenacin (mg) or placebo + tamsulosin (0.4 mg)	Tolterodine ER (4 mg) or placebo+alpha-blocker	Tamsulosin (0.2 mg) +solifenacin 2.5mw) & placebo
PVR (mL)	+11.2vs7.6(P=0.266)	+20.8 vs-4.7(P=0.002)	-161vs).27 vs 0.11 vs 6.42; (NS)	0.02 (0) vs- 13.5 (-8.0)	116 vs 1.0 w: 0.0231)	13.19vs 22.59 vs).92<0.001)
Frequency	-lvs-1.5 (P=0.180).	-1.9 vs-0.9 (P=0.004)	-1.4 vs-1.6 vs -1.6 vs-2.6 (P<0.001)	-1.05 vs -0.67 (P=0.135)	-1.8vs- 1.2 (P=0.0079)	-1.27 vs-1.06 vs -0.22(P=<0.001)
Urgency	0.6vs- 1.15) (P=0.094)	-	-25 vs-2.7 vs -2.3vs-3.4 (P<0.0))	-2.18 vs- 1.10 (P<0.001)	-2.9 vs-1.8 (P=0.0010)	-2.18 vs-2.36vs -1.93 (NS)
AUR	None	None	3/220 vs V216vs 0/21) vs V22)	7 (3%) vs 0 (0%)	1.8%(6/329) vs 1.8%(6/323)	1.9%(4/213) in solifenacin () mg) +

Trosipium chloride, with its inhibitory effect on detrusor muscles was helpful in controlling the irritative symptoms especially nocturia, so that significantly improving QoL.

On the other hand, and for the same reason (inhibition of detrusor muscles), improvement in obstructive symptoms was lesser, but as there was no retention of urine reported, and no significant difference in the objective parameters of obstruction (PVR & Q max) in the 2 groups, we can consider it as a safe adjuvant treatment for BPH/ LUTS.

Conclusion

Trosipium chloride, when combined with the α blocker Tamsulosin, proved to be effective for patients with BPH/ storage LUTS which had a significant impact in improving their quality of life.

Trosipium chloride also proved to be safe (no significant negative impact on voiding) and well tolerated by the elderly patients with BPH, as there was no adverse effect on cognitive or visual functions and low incidence of dryness of mouth.

Absence of acute retention of urine in our series is another proof for the safety of TR, and its relative superiority over other antimuscarinics that show an incidence of retention of urine up to 3% (Table 3).

The IPSS/QoL score was significantly decreased in group 1, in comparison with group 2 (Table 3), which mean a better QoL in the group treated with TR. This may be attributed to the significant decrease in nocturia in this group, which is one of the most bothersome symptoms of BPH.

This significant improvement in QoL score, was also mentioned in Kaplan et al study on Tolterodine, but it was not achieved in many studies using different antimuscarinics (Table 3).

During treatment course, most adverse events that possibly related to TR, were mild, and do not lead to withdrawal from the study. No patient suffered from AUR during treatment and no cognitive or visual disorder were reported in any patient, even dryness of the mouth related to Trosipium was much less than in other antimuscarinics; which makes it more tolerable.

Acknowledgments

None

Conflicts of interest

Authors declare there is no conflict of interest.

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