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On Drugs and Therapeutics

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**In Brief: Two Intranasal Corticosteroid HFA
Aerosols for Allergic Rhinitis** online only

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IN BRIEF

In Brief: Two Intranasal Corticosteroid HFA Aerosols for Allergic Rhinitis

The FDA has approved 2 intranasal HFA (hydrofluoroalkane) aerosols of the corticosteroids beclomethasone dipropionate (*Qnasl* – Teva Respiratory) and ciclesonide (*Zetonna* – Sunovion) for once-daily treatment of seasonal and perennial allergic rhinitis. They are the first HFA nasal steroids to become available in the US (HFA propellants do not deplete the ozone layer). Both drugs are already available for these indications as aqueous nasal sprays. Aqueous (“wet”) formulations can cause adverse effects such as postnasal drip, moist feeling in the nose, strong odor, and bitter aftertaste, which could reduce patient compliance and may lead to discontinuation of the medication; the new pressurized, odorless, non-aqueous (“dry”) HFA formulations may be better tolerated.

Table 1. Beclomethasone and Ciclesonide for Treatment of Allergic Rhinitis

Drug	Formulation	Adult Dosage	Pediatric Dosage	Cost ¹
Beclomethasone				
<i>Beconase AQ</i> (GSK)	Metered-dose pump spray 42 mcg/spray, 180 sprays/unit	1-2 sprays per nostril 2x/d	>6 yrs: 1-2 sprays per nostril 2x/d	\$155.38
<i>Qnasl</i> (Teva Respiratory)	HFA metered-dose aerosol 80 mcg/spray, 120 sprays/unit	2 sprays per nostril 1x/d	Not approved for <12 years old	106.99
Ciclesonide				
<i>Omnaris</i> (Sunovion)	Metered-dose pump spray 50 mcg/spray, 120 sprays/unit	2 sprays per nostril 1x/d	≥6 yrs: 2 sprays per nostril 1x/d ²	114.04
<i>Zetonna</i> (Sunovion)	HFA metered-dose aerosol 37 mcg/spray, 60 sprays/unit	1 spray per nostril 1x/d	Not approved for <12 years old	114.04

HFA = hydrofluoroalkane

1. Wholesale acquisition cost for 30 days' treatment. Source: PricePointRx™ October 5, 2012. Reprinted with permission by FDB, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2012.
<http://www.firstdatabank.com/support/drug-pricing-policy.aspx>. Actual retail prices may be higher.

2. In children 6-11 years old, *Omnaris* is only approved for seasonal allergic rhinitis.

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