

**Azithromycin maintenance treatment decreased exacerbation rate in patients with COPD.**

Uzun S, et al. *Lancet Respir Med.* 2014; 2(5):361-8.

- Macrolide resistance is an increasing problem; there is therefore debate about when to implement maintenance treatment with macrolides in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).
- A randomised, double-blind trial investigated whether patients with COPD who had received treatment for  $\geq 3$  exacerbations in the previous year would have a decrease in exacerbation rate when maintenance treatment with azithromycin (500 mg three times a week for 12 months) was added to standard care.

*Maintenance therapy with azithromycin resulted in a significant reduction in COPD exacerbation rate versus placebo*

*It was well tolerated.*