

CFC-free corticosteroid metered-dose inhaler

In the United States, 3M Pharmaceuticals' QVAR inhalation aerosol for the long-term treatment of asthma has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. QVAR is the first metered-dose inhaler (MDI) to contain a corticosteroid, beclomethasone in this case, that replaces CFCs with the propellant hydrofluoroalkane (HFA). Clinical studies have shown that QVAR delivers about 50 per cent more medication to the lungs and less to the throat, compared with CFC-based beclomethasone inhalers. (Website: <http://www.aaps-pharmaceutica.com/news/articles/nov1pharmreport.htm>)