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| **Short-acting beta-agonist overuse is risky, but how do users with asthma perceive and respond to this risk?** |
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| **Introduction/Aim:** In Australia, previous strategies to encourage appropriate use of reliever inhalers (short acting beta 2 agonists or SABAs) have been unsuccessful and SABA overuse continues to be common. There is a paucity of research exploring asthma patients’ risk perceptions about the consequences of uncontrolled asthma or reliever overuse. This project therefore explored the risk perceptions of patients ‘overusing’ reliever inhalers to better inform targeted risk communication strategies. **Methods:** Qualitative semi-structured interviews were conducted with people living with asthma, who were using >1–2 puffs per day of a short-acting beta agonist (SABA)/reliever inhaler. The interviews were supported by a literature informed topic guide which probed patient behaviours and risk perceptions. Interviews were transcribed verbatim and analysed thematically in an inductive paradigm using a six-step process.**Results:** Twenty-one people with asthma participated (76% female, 47% between 36-65 years old) in interviews. Key themes included self-perception of risk, perceived risk from the environment or from comorbid conditions and risk-related action taking. Most participants had a reasonable awareness of the risk having asthma posed to their health, however the perceived risk from SABA overuse was low. Most participants indicated using SABAs frequently to mitigate risk from asthma.**Conclusion:** Effective communication around the risks related to SABA inhaler overuse is needed to address the issue. This would require training health professionals to use risk perception assessments and appropriately framed communication strategies with patients likely overusing relievers. **Grant Support:** *The project was supported by an IMPACT Perpetual Philanthropic Grant.* |