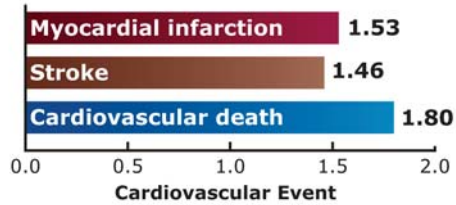

Not Exactly a Breath of Fresh Air

Popular inhaled medications prescribed to alleviate symptoms of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) may have severe health consequences:

Relative Risk of Suffering Event*



*Compared to members of the control group (reference value = 1.00) given placebo or other inhaled agents (beta agonists).

SOURCE: Singh S, Loke YK, Furberg CD. Inhaled anticholinergics and risk of major adverse cardiovascular events in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. *JAMA*, Sept. 24, 2008;300(12):1439-50.