

National Asthma Council Webinar Series

Paediatric Asthma Update in 2020 Session 3

Asthma Best Practice For Health Professionals

Supported by the Australian Government Department of Health

Welcome

- Topics Covered Today
 - Australian Asthma Handbook
 - Paediatric asthma pathophysiology
 - Triggers
 - Diagnostic principles in children
 - Management principles in children
 - Written Asthma Action Plans in children
 - Acute medical management of children in Primary Care
 - Asthma and COVID 19 guidelines





Learning Objectives

- Define the pathophysiology of paediatric asthma
- Identify the steps involved in the diagnosis of Paediatric asthma - referring to the Australian Asthma Handbook
- Describe the classification and management of asthma across the different ages in children
- Summarise the important information to be included in a Written Asthma Action Plan
- Define the steps in managing acute asthma in primary care





Australian Asthma Handbook www.asthmahandbook.org.au



Recommended for you









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Asthma

Children and Asthma Facts

- Asthma is:
 - One of the most common childhood conditions
 - The most common cause for presentation to primary care, emergency departments and for admission to hospital in children
- 20-25% of hospital admissions for asthma occur in February
- Asthma is more common in boys than girls aged 0-14, but more common in females aged 15 and over
- Not all children with wheeze have asthma: 2 out of 3 children with recurrent wheeze aged 1-5 don't have asthma at age 6
- 21% of children aged 1-12 who have asthma reported disturbed sleep from asthma over the previous 4 weeks¹



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Remember

- Asthma is a chronic lung disease, which can be controlled but not cured
- Asthma is defined by the presence of **both**:
 - excessive variation in lung function
 - variable respiratory symptoms

Narrowing of the airway is due to:

- Inflammation of the lining of the airway
- · Constriction of the smooth muscles in the walls of the airway
- Increased mucous production



Triggers for Asthma in Children

Triggers vary among children and symptoms can often be delayed after exposure to the trigger.

Common Triggers:

- Respiratory infections such as the common cold
- Exposure to cigarette smoke, E-cigarettes and water pipes
- Weather conditions, such as cold air, rapid temperature changes
- Allergens, animals, pollens or mould, outdoor air pollution
- Exercise



Children: 0-12 months

- Wheezing infants aged less than 12 months should not be treated as asthma
- Wheezing in this age group is most commonly due to acute viral bronchiolitis or to small and/or floppy airways

 Advice should be obtained from a paediatric respiratory physician or paediatrician before administering short-acting beta₂ agonists, systemic corticosteroids or inhaled corticosteroids to an infant under 12 months





Children: 1-5 years Diagnosis

Many infants and preschoolers wheeze when they have viral respiratory infections and may not have asthma

- Diagnosis is based on:
 - History family history of asthma, personal history of eczema or allergic rhinitis, maternal smoking during pregnancy, previous wheezing episodes, noisy breathing, frequency and timing of previous episodes
 - Physical examination conduct a general physical examination, observe for signs of rhinitis, observe breathing, auscultation for wheeze (wheeze is suggestive, but not diagnostic), look at the shape of the chest
 - A treatment trial response to inhaled bronchodilator









Children: 1-5 years Management

- Manage symptoms with as-needed reliever therapy during wheezing episodes in children that have been shown to be salbutamol-responsive in a treatment trial
- A small proportion may need a regular preventer for symptoms (wheezing, cough, breathlessness) that occur at least 4-6 weekly and disrupt child's sleep or play
 - $_{\odot}$ Start with a low dose inhaled corticosteroid or montelukast
- Provide parents/carers with a written asthma action plan
- pMDI with spacer with or without a mask remain the recommended first line choice of device





6 years and over: Diagnosis

The diagnosis can be made with more certainty in this age group

- Based on:
 - History
 - Physical examination
 - Diagnostic testing (e.g. spirometry)
 - Treatment trial

Make sure the diagnosis is correct!

EPISODIC RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS THAT SUGGEST ASTHMA INVESTIGATIONS FOR HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION SPECIFIC ALTERNATIVE DIAGNOSIS Table. Findings that increase or decrease the probability of asthma in children Table: Findings that require Supports asthma diagnosis? investigation in children YES Table: Conditions that can be YES confused with asthma in children Child able to perform spirometry? Alternative diagnosis confirmed? YES SPIROMETRY TREATMENT TRIAL Trial reliever and/or preventer as FEV₁ before and 10-15 FURTHER indicated mins after bronchodilator INVESTIGATIONS Table: Classification of asthma and Reversible airflow indications for initiating preventer Consider bronchial provocation test limitation? (FEV1 increase treatment in chidlren aged 6 years cardiopulmonary exercise test and ≥12% from baseline) and over other tests as indicated NO NO See: Provisional diagnosis and treatment trial for asthma in a child Supports asthma diagnosis? aged 6 years or over Clear response to treatment? YES YES **ASTHMA NOT** ASTHMA CONFIRMED Monitor signs and symptoms and consider Start asthma treatment and review response referral

CONFIRMED

DIAGNOSIS

CONSIDER

ALTERNATIVE

DIAGNOSES

REFERRAL

AND

ALTERNATIVE



Diagnosis in Children

A provisional diagnosis of asthma can be made if the child has all of :

- Wheezing accompanied by breathing difficulty or cough
- Other features that increase the probability of asthma such as a history of allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis or a strong family history of asthma and allergies
- No signs that suggest an alternative diagnosis
- Clinically important response to bronchodilator demonstrated on spirometry (if child is able to perform)



Children: 6 years and over Management

- All school-aged children with asthma need a reliever to use when they have asthma symptoms
- Regular preventer treatment is indicted for those symptoms that occur at least 4-6 weekly and disrupt the child's sleep or play
 - Dose is determined by risk and severity of flare ups
 - Review regularly to assess control
- Treatment may need to be stepped up to include add on therapy
 - Montelukast
 - Combination therapy
 - Tiotropium > 6 years with mod-severe asthma



Stepped approach for 6-11 years



All patients

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Asthma control in children

week

	Good control		Partial control		Poor control	
All of:		An	Any of:		Either of:	
•	Daytime symptoms† ≤2 days per	•	Daytime symptoms† >2 days per	•	Daytime symptoms† >2 days per	
	week (lasting only a few minutes		week (lasting only a few minutes and		week (lasting from minutes to hours or	
	and rapidly relieved by rapid-acting		rapidly relieved by rapid-acting		recurring, and partially or fully relieved	
	bronchodilator)		bronchodilator)		by SABA reliever)	
•	No limitation of activities‡	•	Any limitation of activities*	•	≥3 features of partial control within the	
•	No symptoms§ during night or	•	Any symptoms during night or when		same week	
	when wakes up		wakes up††			
•	Need for SABA reliever# ≤2 days	•	Need for SABA reliever# >2 days per			

per week

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Reasons for Poor Asthma Control

- Medication related issues
 - Incorrect device technique
 - Poor adherence to preventer therapy
 - Allergies allergic rhinitis, hay fever
 - Uncontrolled trigger exposure -cigarette smoke, allergens, chemicals
- Limited knowledge of asthma and self management
- No asthma action plan or regular asthma review
- Diagnostic issues:
 - It's not asthma



Alternative Diagnosis

Finding	Notes
Persistent cough that is not associated with wheeze/breathlessness or systemic disease	Unlikely to be due to asthma
Onset of signs from birth or very early in life	Suggests cystic fibrosis, chronic lung disease of prematurity, primary ciliary dyskinesia, bronchopulmonary dysplasia, congenital abnormality
Family history of unusual chest disease	Should be enquired about before attributing all the signs and symptoms to asthma
Severe upper respiratory tract disease (e.g. severe rhinitis, enlarged tonsils and adenoids or nasal polyps)	Specialist assessment should be considered
Crepitations on chest auscultation that do not clear on coughing	Suggest a serious lower respiratory tract condition such as pneumonia, atelectasis, bronchiectasis
Unilateral wheeze	Suggests inhaled foreign body
Systemic symptoms (e.g. fever, weight loss, failure to thrive)	Suggest an alternative systemic disorder
Feeding difficulties, including choking or vomiting	Suggests aspiration – specialist assessment should be considered
Inspiratory upper airway noises (e.g. stridor, snoring)	Acute stridor suggests tracheobronchitis (croup)
Persistent voice abnormality	Suggests upper airway disorder
Finger clubbing	Suggests cystic fibrosis, bronchiectasis
Chronic (>4 weeks) wet or productive cough	Suggests cystic fibrosis, bronchiectasis, chronic bronchitis, recurrent aspiration, immune abnormality, ciliary dyskinesia
Focal (localised) lung signs	Suggests pneumonia
Nasal polyps in child under 5 years old	Suggests cystic fibrosis
Severe chest deformity	Harrison's Sulcus and Pectus Carinatum can be due to uncontrolled asthma, but severe deformity suggests an alternative diagnosis
Obvious breathing difficulty, especially at rest or at night	Specialist assessment should be considered
Recurrent pneumonia	Specialist assessment should be considered

Asthma review in children

As a general guide, review each child's asthma:

- Every 3-6 months when asthma is stable and well controlled, more frequently as required
- 2 weeks prior to beginning of school year
- 4-6 weeks after any medication changes step up or down
- Within 2-3 days of a hospital presentation, then again 4 weeks later
- Use validated questionnaires to assess recent symptom control
 - Test for Respiratory and Asthma Control in Kids (TRACK) < 5 years
 - Childhood Asthma Control Test (C-ACT) 4-11 years



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At each asthma review

- Assess recent asthma symptoms
- Assess if the child has any risk factors for future adverse events e.g. previous severe life-threatening acute asthma or hospital admission, history of sudden severe unpredictable asthma flare-ups
- Perform spirometry as required (for children > 6 years)
- Check adherence to treatment
- Check inhaler technique
- Check the written asthma action plan is up to date
- Check modifiable environmental factors including exposure to tobacco smoke or significant airborne allergens
- Ask whether parents or child have any concerns about the treatment (e.g. cost, potential side effects)



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ASTHMA & COPD MEDICATIONS

SABA RELIEVERS



Bricanyl Turbuhaler † ^ terbutaline 500mog



Airomir Autohaler ± ^ salbutamol.100mcg



ASMOL

NON STEROIDAL PREVENTERS



Singulair Tablet a montelukast 4mg + 5mg - 10mg



Intal Inhaler † sodium cromoglycate 1mg - 5mg* *Intel Forte

This chart was developed independently by the National Anthma Council Australia with support from Boehringer-Ingelheim, GSK Australia, Mundipharma and Teva Pharma Australia



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Ventolin Inhaler † ^ salbutamol 100mog

8.8

Montelukast Tablet a

Generic medicine suppliers

montelukast

4mg - 5mg + 10mg

Tilad

Tilade Inhaler †

nedocromit sodium

2mg



Flixotide Accuhaler † fluticasone propionate 100mcg* + 250mcg + 500mcg

OAMS.

100 chines

ipratropium 21mcg

RESOURCES

TREATMENT GUIDELINES

Australian Asthma Handbook: asthmahandbook.org.au

COPD-X Plan: copdx.org.au

INHALER TECHNIQUE

How-to videos, patient and practitioner information

nationalasthma.org.au

Inhalers/MDIs should be used with a compatible spacer

Flixotide Inhaler †

Ruticasone propionate

*Flinetide Junior

50mcg* + 125mcg + 250mcg



ICS PREVENTERS

Fluticasone Cipla Inhaler †

125mcg - 250mcg

AND DESCRIPTION OF

Pulmicort Turbuhaler †

Statute and

APOCAT

budesonide

OMAB

OR ADDRESS

beclometasone

50mcg + 100mcg

QVAR Autohaler ±

Buticasone propionate

QVAR Inhaler † beclometasone 50mcg * 100mcg



Alvesco Inhaler † ciclesonide Atrovent Metered Aerosol † ^ 80mcg + 160mcg



Oxis Turbuhaler ± formateral 6mcg + 12mcg



50/25 - 125/25 - 250/25 #

fluticasone propionate/salmeterol.

200

budescnids/formateral

100/6 + 200/6 + 400/12 W

Symbicort Rapihaler ‡

budesonide/formoterol

50/3 • 100/3 • 200/6 #

Seretide MDI ±

Symbicort Turbuhaler ±

fluticasone propionate/salmeterol 100/50 - 250/50 - 500/50 # all units in mcg

LABA MEDICATIONS



Serevent Accuhaler ± salmiter of 50mcs



ICS/LABA COMBINATIONS

DuoResp Spiromax ‡ budesonide/formotero 200/6 - 600/12 #



Flutiform Inhaler ‡ **Ruticasone** propionate/formoterol. 50/5 + 125/5+ 250/10



Fluticasone + Salmeterol fluticasone propionate/salmeterol



Breo Ellipta ± fluticanone furcate/vilanterol 100/25 # - 200/25

N. serving

indacaterol

150mcg * 300mcg

Onbrez Breezhaler ^















Ultibro Breezhaler C indacaterol/glycopyrronium 110/50

LAMA MEDICATIONS



Spiriva Respimat # ±

tistropium 2.5mcg

×-1

Bretaris Genuair #

adidinium 322mcg

DESCRIPTION INC. | MEDICINE

Incruse Ellipta #

umeclidinium 62.5mcg



Spiriva Handihaler # tistropium 18mcg



Seebri Breezhaler # glycopyrronium 50mcg

ICS/LAMA/LABA



Trelegy Ellipta C fluticasone fursate/ umaclidinium/vilanterol 100/62.5/25

LAMA/LABA COMBINATIONS



Brimica Genuair C actidinium/formoterol 340/12



Anoro Ellipta C umeclidinium/vilanterol 62.5/25





all units in mod











What is meant by low and high daily ICS doses in children?

Inhalad corticoctoroid	Daily dose (mcg)			
	Low	High		
Beclometasone dipropionate	100-200	>200 (up to 400)		
(QVar)	100-200	~200 (up to 400)		
Budesonide	200 400	>100 (up to 800)		
(Pulmicort, Symbicort)	200-400	~400 (up to 600)		
Ciclesonide	80 160	>160 (up to 320)		
(Alvesco)	00-100	~100 (up to 520)		
Fluticasone proprionate	400.000	>200 (up to 500)		
(Flixotide, Fluticasone Cipla, Axotide)	100-200			
(Salplus F, Seretide, Pavtide)				
Fluticasone furoate (Arnuity Ellipta)	50	>50		

Remember 2 puffs of 1, does not equal 2 puffs of another!

Devices for young children

Route of administration	<2 years	2-4 years	5-7 years	>8 years
MDI, small volume spacer & mask	Yes	Yes		
MDI & spacer		Possible	Yes	Yes
Dry powder device			Possible	Yes
Breath-activated device			Possible	Yes

Always check device use at every opportunity- support child to self administer when able to



Written asthma action plans

- Written asthma action plans improve outcomes
 - Miss school less often
 - Wake less at night and have improved symptom scores
- Written asthma action plans
 - Recognise worsening asthma
 - Increased symptoms, wheeze, cough, breathlessness especially waking from sleep
 - Give advice for adjusting medication
 - Advice when to see a Dr
 - Advice when to call an Ambulance

All children with asthma need to have a current asthma action plan





Early warning signs of asthma in children

Before breathing difficulty begins the parent/carer may receive clues that an asthma episode may be developing. These signs are often unique for each person, but may include:

- Dark circles under eyes
- Increased pallor
- Runny/stuffy nose/sneezing/eczema flare up
- Feeling tired, irritable, trouble sleeping
- Headache
- Breathlessness or coughing on exertion
- Coughing, wheezing







Symptoms of asthma in children

- Shortness of breath- may present as rapid, shallow breathing
- Wheeze may be present
- Cough- particularly at night, in the morning or with exercise or excitement
- Use of accessory muscles tracheal tug, rib retraction, abdominal muscles
- Pallor
- Lethargy, irritability





Management in General Practice

- Primary assessment
 - Mild/Moderate, severe or life-threatening
 - Pulse oximetry
- Bronchodilators
- Secondary assessment
- Management
- Follow up





Rapid primary assessment

Mild/Moderate	Severe	Life-threatening
Can walk	Any of: Use of accessory muscles of	Any of: Reduced consciousness or
Speak whole sentences in one breath	respiration, tracheal tug, subcostal recession (abnormal	collapse
	breathing)	Exhaustion
(for young children: can move	l la chie te complete contence	<u>Overania</u>
around, speak in phrases)	in one breath due to dysphoea	Cyanosis
Oxygen sat >94%		Poor respiratory effort,
	Obvious respiratory distress	soft/absent breath sounds
	Oxygen sat 90-94%	Oxygen Sat <90%



Management of mild/moderate

- Salbutamol pMDI via a spacer
 - Children 1-5 years: 2-6 puffs
 - Children 6 years or older: 4–12 puffs
- Repeat 20-30mins for the first hour or sooner if necessary
- Monitor & maintain oxygen saturation
 - Children: at least 95%
- Observe and monitor for at least 3 hours or
- Nil response
 - Call ambulance 000
 - Continue giving Salbutamol pMDI via a spacer
 - Nebulised salbutamol only if patient unable to breathe through spacer
 - Consider commencement of oral corticosteroids within the first hour

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Emergency management of lifethreatening episode

- Oxygen driven Salbutamol via continuous nebulisation
 - 1-5 years 2 x 2.5mg nebule
 - \geq 6 years 2 x 5mg nebule
- Monitor & maintain oxygen saturation
 - Children: at least 95% or higher
- Arrange immediate transfer to emergency department
 - If poor response to salbutamol add nebulised ipratropium bromide
 - If no improvement or worsening add IV magnesium sulphate
- When dyspnoea improves, consider changing to salbutamol via pMDI plus spacer or intermittent nebuliser every 20 mins



Medical Management acute asthma in clinical settings

Acute asthma in children



Life threatening acute asthma



Follow up

A comprehensive assessment within 2-4 weeks to review the treatment regime

- Review recent flare up/attack
- Try to identify trigger factors associated
- Review medication regime
 - Has reliever on hand
 - Assess if preventer indicated and check adherence
 - Check device technique
- Provide a follow up written asthma action plan
- Review self management and action plan use
- Use spirometry to monitor lung function
- Review and modify the treatment plan as necessary



Community first aid protocol

- 1. Give 4 separate puffs of SABA via spacer
- 2. Take 4 breaths per puff
- 3. Wait 4 minutes
- 4. If symptoms persist, repeat steps 1-3

If still no improvement, call ambulance and continue steps 1-3 until help arrives







Asthma and COVID-19

Refer to Australian Asthma Handbook for reference

- Check everyone with asthma has a current written asthma action plan telehealth if need be
- Avoid performing spirometry unless urgent
- Advise to continue with current asthma medications, including inhaled corticosteroids.
- Only use oral steroids for severe flare ups as indicated
- Avoid using a nebuliser- a well fitting mask and spacer with puffer is preferred
- Advise not to share any medications or spacers even between family members
- Advise to have medications handy- reliever therapy as per action plan

Resources:

- www.asthmahandbook.org.au
 - current Australian asthma guidelines- online resource
- www.nationalasthma.org.au
 - Videos, brochures, charts- free to order online
- www.sensitivechoice.com
 - Consumer resources, information

Health Professional Network: nationalasthma.org.au

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