

Asthma Exacerbation Management in Children

Kong-Sang Wan, MD, PhD

溫港生醫師

台北市聯合醫院仁愛院區 小兒科

- Asthma is an airway inflammatory disease--- functional and structural changes--bronchial hyperresponsiveness and airflow obstruction--- airway structural change or airway remodelling ---epithelial injury, goblet cell hyperplasia, subepithelial layer thickening, airway smooth muscle hyperplasia and angiogenesis
- It is unclear what is the best treatment identify asthma phenotype that might specifically respond to novel therapies such as anti-IL-5, anti-IL-13 and tyrosine kinase inhibitors

Asian pac J allergy immunol. 2013;31(1):3-10





Hypocapnia & respiratory alkalosis due to increase resp. rate



Symptom classification

- **Severe** persistent
 - day: continue
 - night: frequent
- **Moderate** persistent
 - day: daily
 - night: >1/week
- **Mild** persistent
 - day: >2/week(<1/day) [3-6/week]
 - night: >2/month

Persistent asthma

- Asthma sym. ≥ 3 days **per wk** or ≥ 3 nights **per mo**
- Inner-city children with high asthma morbidity
- Persistent asthma related to frequency of acute exacerbation
- Anti-inflammatory agents remain underused

Pediatrics. 2001;277-82

Components of asthma management

- Assessment and monitoring
- Control of factors contributing to asthma severity
- Pharmacotherapy
- Education for a partnership in care

MMWR Recomm Rep.2003;52(RR-6):1-8

- Prevention of asthma exacerbation
 - framing the controller medications
 - educating the families**- manage the disease & improve their domestic environment

Arch Pediatr.2005;12(3):351-6

Reasons for uncontrolled asthma

- The disease process itself
- Management decisions of clinician
- Patient's perceptions of disease control or self-management behaviors
- The cost of medications

- To inform decisions about appropriate levels of asthma therapy:
 - current impairment
 - future risks of exacerbation or adverse medication effects

Eur Rev MedPharmacol Sci.2011;15(6):711-6

Difficult –to–control asthma

- 5% of the asthma population
- Level 4 or higher of GINA treatment strategy is no response
- Level 5: adding oral glucocorticoids or omalizumab

Drugs Today (Barc).2008;44 Suppl 3:1-43

- Early treatment with **OCSs** in children with recurrent acute asthma may decrease the severity and reduce of subsequent relapses

Pediatrics.2003;112(2):382-97

Acute asthma exacerbation

- Life-threatening in p'ts who attend accident and emergency department
- Management is not ideal- underuse of corticosteroids and inappropriate admission rates according to severity

Lancet.2001;358(9282) :629-35

- **Oral corticosteroid**

- effective for out p't treatment of acute asthma
- early administration reduces hospitalizations
- the critical factor for a positive outcome is **early** administration

Pediatrics.2003;112(2):382-97

Acute asthma exacerbation

- Systemic and inhaled corticosteroids are mainstays of treatment in the acute and sub-acute phase of an exacerbation.

Respir Med.2004;98(4):275-84

- Acute management involves severity-based treatment and implementation of clinical practice guidelines

Pediatr Clin North Am.2003;60(5):1035-48

- **Steroid-phobia exists --- total control???**

Triggering Factors

- -- microorganisms (**viruses** & bacteria)
- -- food
- -- exercise
- -- drugs (NSAIDs)
- -- **ambience pollutants**

Triggering Factors

(I) Virus infection---exacerbations of asthma

RV (45%) RSV (28%)

<2yr – 42%, 36%

older children – 66%, 27%

enterovirus, adenovirus, influenza and parainfluenza virus

(II) Bacterial organisms -----asthma exacerbation

Strep pneumoniae, H. influenzae

Moraxella catarrhalis--- esp. in sinusitis

Triggering Factors

(III) Atypical bacterium

(chlamydia pneumoniae, mycoplasma pneumoniae)

- * asthma exacerbation
- * initiate nonatopic asthma
- * persistent asthma symptoms
- * severity of asthma

Triggering Factors

- Prevalence of food as a cause of asthma is not known \cong 9.5%

Arch Pediatr. 2002 Aug;9 Suppl 3:402s-407s

Aust N Z J Med. 1996 Aug;26(4):504-12

- Food allergy in respiratory tract symptoms rarely occur in isolation
- More common in younger children, esp. with atopic dermatitis
- Risk factor for fatal and **near-fatal anaphylactic reactions**

Curr Allergy Asthma Rep. 2004 Jul;4(4):294-301

Triggering Factors

- Increase of food-induced anaphylaxis was above the overall increase in anaphylaxis
- All food-induced fatalities accompanied by respiratory problems
- Atopic individuals with asthma and prior allergic reactions to the same food are at high risk

Allergy. 2001;56 Suppl 67:102-4

- Food-induced reactions occur frequently in **exercise-induced anaphylaxis**

Curr Allergy Asthma Rep. 2003 Jan;3(1):15-21

Triggering Factors

- Physical activity--- main stimuli that cause asthma exacerbation
- Exercise-induced bronchospasm (EIB) occurs in most asthmatic.
- Trigger of persistent childhood asthma

Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol.2004 Mar;92(3):340-3

Pediatr Clin North Am. 2003 Jun;50(3):697-716

- EIA --- 40 to 90% of asthmatic, 10 to 14% of children
- Exhaled NO levels correlated with BHR & FEV1 with asthma

Chest. 2003 Aug;124(2):639-43

Triggering Factors

- NSAIDs precipitate acute asthma attack— 5-10%

J Investig Allergol Clin Immunol. 2003;13(1):20-5

- Adverse drug reactions (ADRs) ---50% bronchospasm, pharmaceutical formulation agents, vaccines, immunoglobulins ---- asthma, atopy or drug allergy ---risk factors

Respiration. 2001;68(4):345-51

- Beta-blockers, calcium antagonists can induce asthma

Drug Saf. 2000 Aug;23(2):143-64

- Most of the drug reactions are **nonallergic**

Initial Assessment

Vital signs

- HR, RR, PEF (<40%) or FEV1

- O2 saturation

poor indicator of need for adm. or prog.
may transiently drop

- End-tidal CO2

should be suppressed

may predict impending resp. failure

(specific but **not** sensitive)

Classifying the Severity of Acute Asthma Exacerbations in Children

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

| Sign/Symptom | Classification | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| | Mild | Moderate | Severe |
| PEFR (% predicted) | 70–90 | 50–70 | <50 |
| Respiratory rate | Normal to 30 | 30–50 | >50 |
| Alertness | Normal | Normal | May be decreased |
| Dyspnea | Absent or mild; can speak in complete sentences | Moderate; speaks in phrases/partial sentences | Severe; speaks in single words or short phrases |
| Accessory muscle use (intercostals retractions) | None to mild | Moderate; some tracheosternal retractions, chest hyperinflation | Moderate; tracheosternal retractions with nasal flaring during inspiration; chest hyperinflation |
| Color | Good | Pale | Possibly cyanotic |
| Auscultation | End expiratory wheeze | Inspiratory and expiratory wheezing | Breath sounds inaudible |
| Oxygen saturation (% at sea level)* | >95 | 90–95 | <90 |
| PCO ₂ * | <35 | <40 | >40 |

Recommendations for Using OCSs to Treat Acute Exacerbations of Asthma in Children From Selected Currently Used Asthma Guidelines Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

| Guidelines | Dose | When to Start |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| BTS (1995) ⁶ | 5–15 y: single dose of 1–2 mg/kg prednisolone, maximum 40 mg; then 1–2 mg/kg/d, maximum 40 mg for 4 d 1–5 y: 20 mg/d prednisolone for 1–3 d <1 y: 1–2 mg/kg/d prednisolone for 1–3 d | Patient with incomplete response to initial treatment with short-acting β_2 -agonist (by nebulization or MDI + spacer \pm face mask) 3–4x hourly, after 3–4 h |
| Canada (1999) ⁷ | > 5 y: single dose of 40–60 mg prednisone or equivalent; then 30–60 mg/d for 7–14 d \leq 5 y: 1–2 mg/kg/d prednisone or equivalent, maximum 50 mg/d, for 3–5 d | As soon as possible in all patients with moderate or severe asthma (ie, FEV ₁ or PEF <60% of predicted) |
| NHLBI (1997) ¹⁰ | Adult (>12 y): prednisone, methylprednisolone, or prednisolone, 120–180 mg/d, given as 3–4 divided doses over 48 h; then 60–80 mg/d until PEF reaches 70% of predicted or personal best; for an outpatient “burst,” use 40–60 mg in single or 2 divided doses for 3–10 d Child (\leq 12 y): 1 mg/kg prednisone, methylprednisolone, or prednisolone every 6 h for 48 h; then 1–2 mg/kg/d (maximum 60 mg/d) in 2 divided doses until PEF reaches 70% of predicted or personal best (for children capable of performing PEF); for an outpatient “burst,” use 1–2 mg/kg/d (maximum 60 mg/d) for 3–10 d | Patient with incomplete response to initial treatment with short-acting β_2 -agonist, up to 3 treatments of 2–4 puffs by MDI at 20-min intervals |
| GINA (2002) ¹² | 0.5–1.0 mg/kg prednisolone or equivalent during a 24-h period | If the response to initial treatment with a rapid-acting inhaled β_2 -agonist (up to 3 treatments of 2–4 puffs by MDI at 20-min intervals) is not prompt or sustained (eg, PEF >80% predicted or personal best) after 1 h |

Management of acute asthma in children aged over 2 years

➤ Acute severe

(FEV1 or PEF < 40-50% predicted)

- Can't complete sentences in one breath or too breathless to talk or feed
- Pulse > 125 (>5yr) or > 140 (2 to 5yr)
- Respiration > 30 breaths/min (5yr) or > 40 (2 to 5yr)

Management of acute asthma in children aged over 2 years

➤ Life threatening

- Hypotension
- Exhaustion
- Confusion
- Coma
- Silent chest
- Cyanosis
- Poor respiration effort

Management of acute asthma in children aged over 2 years

- Criteria for admission
 - increase β 2 agonist **2 puffs** every two mins up to 10 puffs
- **SpO₂<92%** on air after initial bronchodilator – intensive inpatient tx
- Clinical signs should be recorded

Management of acute asthma in children aged over 2 years

- Treatment of acute asthma
 - O₂: life threatening asthma or SpO₂<94% should receive high flow O₂
 - β₂ agonist:
 - First line tx. A pMDI + spacer is option in mild to moderate asthma
 - Individualize drug dosing
 - Single bolus dose of IV salbutamol (15 mcg/kg over 10 min) in severe case
 - Continue LABA when SABA is required more often than four-hourly

Management of acute asthma in children aged over 2 years

➤ Steroid:

- give prednisolone early
- 20mg for aged 2 to 5 yr
30-40mg for >5yr
2mg/kg up to max dose of 60mg for children **already receiving** maintenance steroid
- consider IV steroid for who vomit
- **3 days** is usually sufficient.
- weaning is unnecessary unless exceeds **14 days**

Management of acute asthma in children aged over 2 years

➤ Other therapies

- ipratropium bromide (250mcg/dose mixed with the nebulized β 2 agonist solution)
- Aminophylline is **not** recommended in mild to moderate acute asthma
- consider **aminophylline** in PICU setting for children with severe or **life threatening bronchospasm** unresponsive to maximal doses of bronchodilator plus steroid

anrukinzumab

- Anrukinzumab is an anti-IL-13 monoclonal antibody
- Pharmacokinetics behave like a typical antibody but a higher dose level may be required
Br J Clin Pharmacol. 2015;80(1):101-9
- IL-13 is a T-helper type 2 cytokine associated with inflammation and pathology in asthma
- Lebrikizumab exerted system effects on markers of Th2 inflammation, reducing serum IgE chemokine ligands 13 and 17 by approximately 25%
- Improves prebronchodilator FEV1

Clin Exp Allergy. 2014;44(1):38-46

- Anti-IL13 therapy would benefit patients with asthma who had a pretreatment profile consistent with IL-13 activity (high periostin, marker)
- 5.5% points higher in the lebrikizumab group than in the placebo

N Engl J Med, 2011;365(12):1088-98

- Aplastic anemia and eosinophilic pneumonia were reported

Lacet Respir Med. 2016;4(10):781-796

- Predictive biomarkers is urgently needed to better apply biological treatment.

Int Arch Allergy Immunol. 2016;170(2):122-31

Dupilumab

- A fully human monoclonal antibody to alpha subunit of the IL4 receptor a monoclonal antibody that blocks both IL4 and IL13 signaling

N Engl J Med. 2018;378(26):2533-2534

- Dupilumab therapy associated with fewer asthma exacerbations when LABA and ICS were withdrawn, with improved lung function and reduced of Th2-associated inflammatory markers.

N Engl J Med. 2013;368(26):2455-66

- There are few asthma-related adverse events and fewer adverse events requiring beta-agonist rescue after subcutaneous administration of anti-IL4

Lancet. 2007;370(9596):1396-8

Quilizumab

- A humanized IgG1 monoclonal antibody
- Targets the M1-prime segment of membrane-expressed IgE
- Leads to depletion of IgE –switched and memory B cell
- Not sufficient for a clinically meaningful benefit for adults with allergic asthma uncontrolled by standard therapy.


Quilizumab

- Benefits of anti-IgE in asthma maybe explained by a decrease in eosinophilic inflammation and IgE –bearing cells.

Allergy 2009;64(1):72-80

- FE(NO) can be the noninvasive marker of omalizumab treatment

Pediatrics. 2004;113(4):e308-12



Quilizumab

- Safely improves asthma control in allergic asthmatics who remain symptomatic despite regular use of ICS and simultaneous reduction in corticosteroid requirement.

Eur Respir J. 2001;18(2):254-61



Management of acute asthma in children aged under 2 years

- Assessment is difficult
- Intermittent wheezing attacks are usually due to **viral infection** and response to asthma medication is inconsistent
- D/D with aspiration pneumonia, pneumonia, bronchiolitis, tracheomalacia, complication of congenital anomalies
- Prematurity and LBW are risk factors for recurrent wheezing

Management of acute asthma in children aged under 2 years

- β 2 agonists
 - oral form **not** recommended for infants
 - a pMDI + spacer for mild to moderate p't
- Steroid
 - steroid tablets early in infants with moderate and severe asthma (**10mg for up to 3 days**)
- Inhaled ipratropium bromide in combination with an inhaled β 2 agonists for more severe case

Adjunctive Therapies for child <12 years of age

- Magnesium sulfate (IV)
 - Bolus: 50mg/kg/dose (25 to 100mg/kg/dose; max 2 gms)
- Systemic β 2 agonists
 - Epinephrine (IM) 0.01mg/kg (max 0.3 to 0.5mg every 20 min for 3 doses)
 - Terbutaline
 - IV- 0.01mg/kg bolus (max 0.4mg) over 10 min
 - SC- 0.01mg/kg (max 0.25mg), may repeat every 15 min for 3 doses

Thank you
For
Your attention

