

MEETING ABSTRACT

Open Access

Primary care doctor's diagnosis of difficult-to-treat asthma in school age children

Ole D Wolthers*, Anne Karina Kjaer

From 3rd WAO International Scientific Conference (WISC) 2014
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. 6-9 December 2014

Background

In primary care settings difficult-to-treat asthma may be interpreted as severe asthma. Little is known about diagnostic outcomes in children referred to secondary paediatric referral centres with an established primary care doctor's diagnosis of difficult-to-treat bronchial asthma. The objective of the present study was to assess diagnostic outcome in school age children referred to a secondary paediatric referral centre with an established primary care doctor's diagnosis of difficult-to-treat bronchial asthma.

Methods

482 consecutively referred children aged 5-14 (mean 7.9) years, 99 girls (21%) and 383 boys (79%) with a primary care doctor's referral diagnosis of difficult-to-treat asthma were included from the prospective Asthma in a Secondary Paediatric Referral Centre Study (ASP 2002) in the present survey. At referral and during a 6 months evaluation period patient characteristics, history, symptoms, signs and results of type 1 allergy tests, spirometry, post bronchial beta-2 agonist dilation tests, 4-weeks daily measurement of peak flow rates, corticosteroid reversibility trials and exercise challenge tests were entered into a pre-defined electronic form. The secondary referral centre (SRC) diagnosis of asthma was based on these data.

Results

A diagnosis of asthma was confirmed in 200 (41%), whereas it could not be confirmed in 282 (59%) of the children. Allergic rhinoconjunctivitis was diagnosed in 96 (48%) in the confirmed group, in 87 (31%) in the not confirmed group. A variety of differential diagnoses was made in the children in whom asthma was not confirmed.

Conclusions

In more than half of school age children with a primary care doctor's diagnosis of difficult-to-treat asthma referred to a secondary paediatric referral centre the diagnosis may not be confirmed. Sensitivity and specificity of the diagnosis of asthma in schoolchildren made in primary care settings need further improvement.

Published: 8 April 2015

doi:10.1186/1939-4551-8-S1-A93

Cite this article as: Wolthers and Kjaer: Primary care doctor's diagnosis of difficult-to-treat asthma in school age children. *World Allergy Organization Journal* 2015 **8**(Suppl 1):A93.

**Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central
and take full advantage of:**

- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- No space constraints or color figure charges
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Inclusion in PubMed, CAS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- Research which is freely available for redistribution

Submit your manuscript at
www.biomedcentral.com/submit



Children's Clinic Randers, Denmark



© 2015 Wolthers and Kjaer; licensee BioMed Central Ltd. This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited. The Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication waiver (<http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>) applies to the data made available in this article, unless otherwise stated.