

# Lung Function Alone: Poor Asthma Control Marker

BY DOUG BRUNK

FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ALLERGY, ASTHMA, AND IMMUNOLOGY

SAN FRANCISCO – Lung function alone is a poor marker of asthma control in children, results from a large retrospective analysis demonstrated.

“Physicians should use all components of the 2007 National Asthma Education and Prevention Program Expert Report 3 guidelines, asking questions to patients not only about daytime and nighttime symptoms, but doing lung function testing as well,” Dr. Edward K. Hu advised during a poster session at the meeting.

“Even [among] those patients who are enrolled in a disease management program, there is still going to be a large minority who are going to be uncontrolled in one way or another, despite follow-up visits and seeing asthma specialists,” the allergist advised.

Dr. Hu, a fellow in the division of allergy and immunology at the Los Angeles County/University of Southern California Medical Center, Los Angeles, and his associates studied 453 children aged 5-18 years who were enrolled in an asthma management program in Los Angeles County in 2009 and who made

a total of 886 follow-up visits.

Initial analysis defined asthma control based solely on lung function.

Secondary analysis included all components of asthma control based on the 2007 National Asthma Education and Prevention Program Expert Report 3, which included impairment and risk.

Of the 453 children, 61% were male and 83% were Hispanic.

At baseline more than one-quarter of pediatric patients (29%) had intermittent disease, 21% had mild persistent disease, 25% had moderate persistent disease, and 25% had severe persistent disease.

Dr. Hu reported that when lung function alone was used, 17% of children exhibited asthma that was not well controlled, and 5% exhibited asthma that was poorly controlled.

Inclusion of impairment and risk resulted in a downgrade of asthma control in an additional 22% of children, he reported.

The researchers at the Los Angeles County/USC Medical Center also found that males, aged 8-11 years, were significantly more likely than their female counterparts to present with normal lung function and uncontrolled disease due to other factors (24% vs. 15%).

Dr. Hu said that he had no relevant financial disclosures. ■

## Rationale for Flu Vaccination

H1N1 from page 1

asthmatics and 25% in nonasthmatics, a difference that was not statistically significant, with an odds ratio of 1.9 ( $P = .06$ ).

However, after adjustment for race, sex, and allergic sensitization, the difference became statistically significant, increasing to an OR of 3.5 ( $P$  less than .002).

The incidence of human rhinovirus was statistically similar between the two groups (89% in asthmatics vs. 93% in nonasthmatics), as was the incidence of other viral infections (37% vs. 42%).

Both asthmatics and nonasthmatics reported significant increases in moderate and severe cold symptoms with H1N1, compared with human rhinovirus (63% vs. 28%).

Also, a significantly higher proportion of moderate to severe asthma severity was observed in patients infected with H1N1 influenza, compared with those infected with human rhinovirus (48% vs. 23%). This association held true for severe asthma symptoms as well (19% vs. 4%).

Dr. Kloepfer acknowledged certain limitations of the study, including its single-center design, the fact that it included only children aged 4-12 years, and the fact that it lasted only 8 weeks.

The study was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Kloepfer said that she had no other relevant financial disclosures. ■

### EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

**LILLIAN M. BEARD, M.D.**, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

**LEE SAVIO BEERS, M.D.**, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

**SUZANNE C. BOULTER, M.D.**, Dartmouth Medical School, Hanover, N.H.

**STUART A. COHEN, M.D., M.P.H.**, University of California, San Diego

**H. GARRY GARDNER, M.D.**, Northwestern University, Chicago

**DAVID HILL, M.D.**, University of North Carolina Medical School, Chapel Hill

**M. SUSAN JAY, M.D.**, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

**COLLEEN KRAFT, M.D.**, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Roanoke, Va.

**KEVIN T. POWELL, M.D., Ph.D.**, pediatric hospitalist, Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center, St. Louis, Mo.

**KEITH S. REISINGER, M.D., M.P.H.**, private practice and research, Primary Physicians Research Inc., Pittsburgh

**SARAH E. SCHLEGEL, M.D.**, University of Connecticut, Hartford

**JACK T. SWANSON, M.D.**, private practice, Ames, Iowa

**DEBORAH TOLCHIN, M.D.**, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York

## Pediatric News

President, IMNG Alan J. Imhoff

**Editor in Chief** Mary Jo M. Dales

**Executive Editors** Denise Fulton, Kathy Scarbeck

**Managing Editor** Catherine Cooper Nellist

**Senior Editors** Christina Chase, Kathryn DeMott, Jeff Evans, Lori Buckner Farmer, Catherine Hackett, Keith Haglund, Gina L. Henderson, Sally Koch Kubetin, Teresa Lassman, Mark S. Lesney, Jane Salodof MacNeil, Renée Matthews, Amy Pfeiffer, Terry Rudd, Leanne Sullivan, Elizabeth Wood

**Editorial Production Manager** Carol Nicotera-Ward

**Associate Editors** Felicia Rosenblatt Black, Therese Borden, Lorinda Bullock, Jay C. Cherniak, Richard Franki, Virginia Ingram-Wells, Jane Locastro, January Payne

**Reporters** *Chicago:* Patrice Wendling; *Denver:* Bruce Jancin; *Germany:* Jennie Smith;

*Miami:* Damian McNamara; *Mid-Atlantic:* Michele G. Sullivan; *New England:* Diana Mahoney; *New York:* Mary Ellen Schneider; *Philadelphia:* Mitchel L. Zoler; *San Diego:* Doug Brunk; *San Francisco:* Sherry Boschert, Robert Finn; *Washington:* Alicia Ault, Frances Correa, Elizabeth Mechcatie, Naseem S. Miller, Heidi Splete, Miriam E. Tucker, Kerri Wachter

**Multimedia Producer** Nick Piegari

**Contributing Writers** Christine Kilgore, Mary Ann Moon

**Multimedia Intern** Esther French

**Project Manager** Susan D. Hite

**Assignments Manager** Megan Evans

**Editorial Offices** 5635 Fishers Lane, Suite 6000, Rockville, MD 20852, 877-524-2341, pdnews@elsevier.com

**Address Changes** Fax change of address (with old mailing label) to 973-290-8245 or e-mail change to subs@elsevier.com

**Director of Information Technology** Doug Sullivan

**Senior Systems Administrators** Lee J. Unger, Kreg M. Williams

**Systems Administrator/Application Support** Peter Ayinde

**Accounts Payable Coordinator** Daniela Silva

**Executive Director, Operations** Jim Chicca

**Director, Production/Manufacturing** Yvonne Evans Struss

**Production Manager** Judi Sheffer

**Production Specialists** Maria Aquino, Anthony Draper, Rebecca Slobodnik

**Creative Director** Louise A. Koenig

**Design Supervisor** Elizabeth Byrne Lobdell

**Senior Designers** Sarah L.G. Breen, Yenling Liu

**Designer** Lisa M. Marfori

**Photo Editor** Catherine Harrell

**Senior Electronic Production Engineer** Jon Li

**Sales Director, IMNG**

Mark E. Altier, 973-290-8220, m.altier@elsevier.com

**National Account Manager** Sally Cioci, 973-290-8215, s.cioci@elsevier.com

**Advertising Offices** 60 Columbia Rd., Bldg. B, 2<sup>nd</sup> fl., Morristown, NJ 07960, 973-290-8200, fax 973-290-8250

**Classified Sales Manager, IMNG**

Robert Zwick 973-290-8226, fax 973-290-8250, r.zwick@elsevier.com

**Classified Advertising Offices**

1120 Jensen Ave., Mamaroneck, NY 10543, 800-381-0569

**Reprints/Eprints**

Contact Wright's Media 877-652-5295

**Sr. Program Manager, Customized Programs** Malika Wicks

**Audience Development Manager** Barbara Cavallaro, 973-290-8253, b.cavallaro@elsevier.com

**Program/Marketing Manager** Jennifer Eckert

**Adv. Services Manager** Joan Friedman

**Credit Supervisor** Patricia H. Ramsey

**Manager, Admin./Conventions** Lynne Kalish

**Receptionist** Linda Wilson

**Business Controller** Dennis Quirk

PEDIATRIC NEWS is an independent newspaper that provides the practicing pediatrician with timely and relevant news and commentary about clinical developments in the field and about the impact of health care policy on the specialty and the physician's practice.

The ideas and opinions expressed in PEDIATRIC NEWS do not necessarily reflect those of the Publisher. International Medical News Group, LLC, an Elsevier company, will not assume responsibility for damages, loss, or claims of any kind arising from or related to the information contained in this publication, including any claims related to the products, drugs, or services mentioned herein.

POSTMASTER Send changes of address (with old mailing label) to PEDIATRIC NEWS Circulation, 60 Columbia Rd., Bldg. B, 2<sup>nd</sup> fl., Morristown, NJ 07960.

PEDIATRIC NEWS (ISSN 0031-398X) is published monthly by International Medical News Group, LLC an Elsevier company, 60 Columbia Rd., Bldg. B, 2<sup>nd</sup> fl., Morristown, NJ 07960, 973-290-8200, fax 973-290-8250. Subscription price is \$114.00 per year. Periodicals postage paid at Morristown, NJ, and additional offices.

Founding Publisher: Jack O. Scher

Founding Editor: William Rubin

©Copyright 2011, by Elsevier Inc.

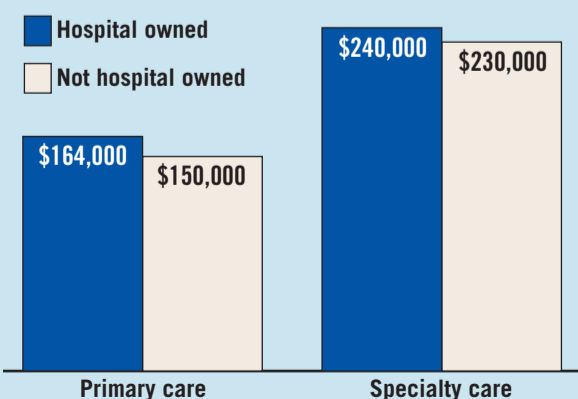


INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL NEWS GROUP



### VITAL SIGNS

#### Median First-Year Compensation Higher Among Hospital-Owned Practices, 2009



Note: Based on survey responses from 702 practices. Source: Medical Group Management Association