Obesity and Asthma Medications in Preschool Children

Abstract Information

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Abstract Information

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Introduction:
Asthma and obesity among preschool children has been found to be linked to poor health outcomes. The purpose of the study is to determine what asthma medication types are more predictive of high BMI in an inner city preschool population. Increased BMI has been found to be associated with asthma morbidity. The prevalence of childhood obesity among preschool children has doubled, and many young children with asthma receive inadequate medication management.

Method(s):
This study is a secondary analysis of two databases. Variables included age, gender, ethnicity, asthma diagnosis, asthma symptoms, school days missed, asthma medications, and height and weight (to calculate BMI).

Results:
The sample consisted of 240 children and mothers, consisting of primarily African American children. Obesity among the children was high, with 14.4% overweight (85th-94th percentile), 7.44% obese (95th-98th percentile), and 8.84% greater than the 99th percentile. Respiratory symptoms/disease/morbidity prevalence, school absences and health care use were high in this preschool population. By maternal report, 27% of children were reported as having a MD diagnosis of asthma. Current history of respiratory symptoms by maternal report ranged from 30% with wheeze, 26% with cough, 25% with nighttime respiratory symptoms, 17% with morning respiratory symptoms and 21% with activity limitations due to respiratory symptoms. Data analysis is underway to examine obesity, asthma, and asthma medication types in this sample.

Discussion:
Asthma morbidity and increased BMI have been linked. The relationship between obesity, asthma, and asthma medications in young children and is not clearly understood. Data analysis is underway to determine which asthma medication types are predictive of obesity and to examine the relationship between obesity and asthma morbidity. The study will provide support for developing risk reduction interventions.
Research Completed: Yes
Abstract History: NA
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