

Asthma Living Guideline Search Narrative - Diagnosis

March 2006

Searches were carried out on the key questions.

1. In children under five years with suspected asthma, what are the key symptoms for diagnosis?

- Wheeze
- Chest tightness
- Cough
- Breathlessness

2. In children aged 5-12 years with suspected asthma, what are the key symptoms for diagnosis?

- Wheeze
- Chest tightness
- Cough
- Breathlessness

3. What are the most effective objective tests for diagnosing airway disease that will respond to inhaled corticosteroids in adults (over 12years)?

List tests:

- Peak expiratory flow variability (amplitude % mean)
- Bronchodilator response (using PEF and FEV1)
- Exhaled nitric oxide
- Induced sputum eosinophil count
- Airway responsiveness to methacholine
- Exercise challenge
- Indirect challenges such as mannitol and AMP

4. How important is it to differentiate asthma from other causes of cough, wheeze or breathlessness to confirm diagnosis of patients with asthma?

5. In children and adults with asthma what is the best method for monitoring their condition?

Consider:

- exhaled nitric oxide
- pulmonary function
- sputum eosinophilia

symptoms (RCP 3 questions): difficulty sleeping, persistence of symptoms throughout the day (cough, wheeze, chest tightness, breathlessness), interference with daily activities due to symptoms.

Searches were carried out in February 2006, for date range 2003-2005.

Databases searched: Medline, Embase, CINAHL.

Medline strategy:

- 1 asthma/di
- 2 asthma.tw.
- 3 exp Diagnosis/
- 4 diagnos\$.tw.
- 5 2 and (3 or 4)
- 6 1 or 5

Combined with diagnostic filter

File name : SIGN101_2006_Diagnosis_search_narrative	Version 0.1	16/01/2012
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Medline strategy KQ5:

1. exhal\$ nitric oxide.tw.
2. exp Breath Tests/
3. sputum eosinophilia.tw.
4. follow up.tw.
5. follow-up.tw.
6. followup.tw.
7. exp MONITORING, PHYSIOLOGIC/
8. monitor\$.tw.
9. or/1-8
10. exp asthma/
11. asthma\$.tw.
12. 10 or 11
13. 9 and 12

Search results:

Total hits:	Pre-sifted result:	Sifted result:
KQs 1-4: 661	130	KQs 1-5: 114
KQ5: 2330	109	