

PROPER INHALED CORTICOSTEROID USED IN UNDERSERVED CHILDREN

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Low socioeconomic status (SES), especially ethnic minorities, and decreased education can play major factors in increased asthma morbidity and mortality of children younger than eighteen. Non-Hispanic minority children, of low SES, living in disadvantageous geographic regions are around four times more likely to visit an emergency room for asthma, and mortality is almost eight times more likely. Many factors may lead to, or be associated with, poor asthma outcomes, adherence, and increased asthma morbidity, including low SES, lack of family support, parental psychological state, and caregiver education. Many minority children, especially in lower SES, have increased days in bed due to asthma, are more likely to use the emergency room for asthma care, are less likely to have an inhaled corticosteroid (ICS), and have increased morbidity and mortality due to asthma. Approximately three million pediatric visits are due to asthma each year, and there is strong evidence of minority and low SES children not receiving proper prescriptions, such as an ICS for persistent asthma. Individuals living in geographic isolation, lower SES regions, poverty, and demographic minorities are at increased risks for being poorly diagnosed and treated improperly for persistent asthma. There is strong evidence few providers are educated on the national guidelines for asthma and therefore are unfamiliar with asthma classification, but for various reasons, even when familiar, do not properly treat minority patients or those in low SES with an ICS. Future goals should be decreasing emergency room visits, hospitalizations, increasing medication adherence, and proper prescriptions based on severity. Through the help of community health workers, certified asthma educators, and nurse practitioners, we can help decrease this large disparity in asthma.

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Abstract Major Area (check one)

Asthma Diagnosis and/or Care

Asthma Education Program or Program Evaluation  Device and Technique Evaluation

Drug Clinical Trial

Data (check one)  Abstract with data  Abstract without data