

Summary

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A summary of Evaluation of Asthma Control in Children Using Childhood-Asthma Control Test (CACT) and Asthma Therapy Assessment Questionnaire (ATAQ)

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Asthma is a chronic disease of the airway which is associated with lifelong morbidity with a Disability adjusted life years of up to 500¹. The goal of asthma care is hence to achieve and maintain asthma control². In order to do this, children need to visit medical practitioners and paediatricians periodically to assess asthma control.

Global initiative of asthma lays down certain criteria Known as the GINA criteria which involve pulmonary function tests³. However, performing pulmonary function tests repeatedly in resource poor settings becomes cumbersome. An alternative, organised clinical tool to assess asthma control is hence required.

This study was conducted to test the efficacy of two such tools, Childhood asthma control test and asthma therapy assessment questionnaire since previous studies have yielded conflicting results⁴⁻⁵.

The study conducted by AR et al. found the efficacy of c-Act to be fair and acceptable⁶. However the findings of the study were not as promising as other studies⁷. Hence, there is a possibility of higher efficacy of the tool at a different cut off value as suggested by the study conducted by Yixinshu et al⁸, which showed that a different cut-off level is more suitable for Hispanic children in California. Findings in this study were similar, the statistical parameters of C-ACT at cut-off score 20 were more significant than the original cut off score of 19. The findings of the study however were limited by the cultural diversity of the participants giving rise to linguistic barriers.

ATAQ on the other hand was found to be not very effective at predicating asthma control and was found to require structural modifications.

The study hence concluded that the childhood asthma control test is a reliable questionnaire to predict asthma control.

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