

# CAREGIVER AND CHILD MANAGEMENT BEHAVIORS AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA

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**Key words:** asthma, management behavior, quality of life, children

**Purpose:** The purpose of this study was to examine relationships of caregiver management behavior, child management behavior, and asthma symptoms on a child's quality of life. The conceptual framework was derived from the Donabedian model.

**Design:** A cross sectional correlational design was used.

**Methods:** The study sample consisted of 127 pairs of caregivers and children with asthma, aged between 6 to 15 years. Participants answered the Pediatric Asthma Quality of Life Questionnaire, the Caregiver Management Behavior Questionnaire, and The Child Management Behavior at an allergy clinic in a tertiary hospital, Bangkok.

**Main findings:** Family income and caregiver's education were related to caregiver management behavior ( $r = .32$ ,  $p < .001$ ). Caregiver management behavior was related to child management behavior ( $r = .23$ ,  $p < .001$ ). Family income ( $\beta = .282$ ,  $p < .001$ ) had a significant relationship to child quality of life. Child management behavior ( $\beta = -.434$ ,  $p < .001$ ) and the frequency of use of bronchodilators ( $\beta = -.192$ ,  $p = .05$ ) had a significantly adverse relationship to child quality of life.

**Conclusion:** Children who frequently performed asthma management and frequently used bronchodilators had a lower quality of life. Recommendations are that health care providers should assess child quality of life in clinics. Interventions for improving quality of life for children with asthma should focus on asthma management behavior to control asthma symptoms and to decrease the frequency of use of bronchodilators.

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