

IMPACTS OF ASTHMA DISEASE ON SCHOOL-AGE ASTHMATIC CHILDREN AND FAMILY

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Purpose: To investigate the impacts of asthma on school-age asthmatic children and their families, and determine predictors of impact on asthmatic children and their families.

Design: Predictive design

Methods: The samples contained 120 school-age asthmatic children and 120 mothers of school-age asthmatic children, who were treated at the allergy clinic of Siriraj Hospital, Chulalongkorn Hospital, Queen Sirikit Institute of Child Health, B.M.A. Medical College and Vajira Hospital. Data were collected using questionnaires for the impacts on asthmatic children and their families and on the severity of asthma. The data was analyzed by percentage, mean, standard deviation and multiple regression analysis.

Main Findings: The results showed that most of the mothers were 36-45 years old, housewives with family income above 15,000 baht/month. Most asthmatic children were 6-8 years old. Precipitating factors in their asthma was house dust. The severity of asthma was mild, and duration of illness ranged from 1-5 years. Hospital admissions were from 1 to 5 times. The results showed that impacts of asthma disease on school-age asthmatic children and families were little. Severity of asthma was predicted at 9.7 percent. The impact of asthma disease on school-age asthmatic children was statistically significant ($p < .01$). Severity of asthma was predicted at 7.7 percent. The impact of asthma disease on families was statistically significant ($p < .01$). These were the only reliable predictors in this study and showed that school-age asthmatic children who have severe asthma, impact on themselves and their families.

Conclusion and Recommendation: In order to decrease the severity of asthmatic attacks, these results suggest that nurses should educate school-age asthmatic children and their families about prevention of asthmatic attack, such as avoidance of precipitating factors. Nurses should also educate caregivers about how to observe signs and symptoms of asthmatic attacks and how to provide primary care when children have an asthmatic attack.

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