Position Statement

Managing an acute asthma exacerbation in children

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Children and youth with acute asthma exacerbations frequently present to an emergency department with signs of respiratory distress. The most severe episodes are potentially life-threatening. Effective treatment depends on the accurate and rapid assessment of disease severity at presentation. This statement addresses the assessment, management, and disposition of paediatric patients with a known diagnosis of asthma who present with an acute asthma exacerbation. Guidance includes the assessment of asthma severity, treatment considerations, proper discharge planning, follow-up, and prescription for inhaled corticosteroids to prevent exacerbation and decrease chronic morbidity.

Keywords: Asthma; Disposition; Emergency management; Management; Paediatrics; Preschoolers

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