Oral Corticosteroids as a Treatment of Acute Wheezing Episodes in Preschool Children:

What is the Evidence for the Efficacy of This Treatment?

1. Asthma guidelines recommend treatment with Oral Corticosteroids (OCSs) for significant exacerbations\(^1\). However no specific recommendation is available regarding the treatment of acute exacerbations among preschool children with history of recurrent wheezing.

2. Distinct disease phenotype among these young preschool children: intermittent disease but severe morbidity that is related to acute exacerbations \(^2\,^3\).

3. Substantial evidence for the efficacy of OCSs in asthma exacerbations among school-aged children and adolescents \(^4\,^5\).

4. What is the evidence for the efficacy of this treatment among preschool children with recurrent wheezing?

5. Randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled trials that investigated the efficacy of OCSs among preschool children:
   a. Outpatient studies: parents initiated OCSs \(^6\,^7\).
   b. OCSs initiated in the Emergency Department \(^8\,^9\).
   c. OCSs treatment among hospitalized preschool children \(^10\).

6. Post-hoc analyses of two clinical trials investigating the effect of OCSs on episode severity in preschool children with intermittent wheezing \(^11\).

7. Summary: editorials and expert opinions on this topic \(^12\,^15\).

* PDF of the PowerPoint presentation will be available on-line at the time of the AAAAI meeting
3304 Symposia, Session #2: Session outline and relevant references*

References:


