

European Respiratory Society Annual Congress 2013

Abstract Number: 1422

Publication Number: P955

Abstract Group: 6.1. Epidemiology

Keyword 1: Asthma - management **Keyword 2:** Exacerbation **Keyword 3:** Public health

Title: Pattern of asthma control and inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) use in an Australian asthma population

Prof. Dr Matthew 8001 Peters Matthew.Peters@sswahs.nsw.gov.au MD ⁴, Prof. Dr Susan 7997 Sawyer susan.sawyer@rch.org.au MD ¹, Mr. Paul 7999 Flood paul.flood@ultrafeedback.com ³, Mr. Peter 8000 Everett peter.everett@ultrafeedback.com ³ and Prof. Dr Helen 7998 Reddel helen.reddel@sydney.edu.au MD ². ¹ Centre for Adolescent Health, Royal Children's Hospital, Parkville, Victoria, Australia, 3052 ; ² Clinical Management Group, Woolcock Institute of Medical Research, Glebe, NSW, Australia, 2037 ; ³ Health Research, Ultrafeedback, Hawthorn, Victoria, Australia, 3122 and ⁴ Respiratory Medicine, Australian School of Advanced Medicine, Macquarie University, NSW, Australia, 2109 .

Body: Introduction: Australia implemented a concerted national approach to asthma two decades ago with consensus guidelines supported by universal health care and subsidised treatment. Deaths and hospitalisations have fallen but we lack data for broader measures of asthma control. Methods: Survey responses were sought from an online survey panel. Inclusion criteria: age >15; health professional-diagnosed asthma; symptoms or asthma medication use in past year. The sample was weighted to the Australian asthma population by age, gender and State. Using the Asthma Control Test, asthma control was categorised as well-controlled (WC;20-25), not well controlled (NWC;16-19) or very poorly controlled (VPC;<16). Current control was related to patterns of ICS use. Results: 9388 potential respondents with diagnosed asthma were identified: 6370 had no symptoms or recent treatment and were excluded. 2686 completed the survey; response rate 89%. 43% were male, median age range was 40-49. 64% had a post-school qualification. 45% were told they had asthma before age 14. 54% had WC, 23 % NWC and 23% VPC asthma.

Discussion: Interpretation of reported control vs pattern of ICS use is confounded by severity. Almost half of study subjects do not have ACT - Well Controlled asthma. ICS use at less than recommended frequency is common. 40% of non-users of ICS had poor control (NWC or VPC). Clinical guidelines suggest this group should use ICS.