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**Title:** Asthma prescription trends in the emirate of Abu-Dhabi

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**Body:** Asthma-related data, completely available for the first time in 2010 through the information system of the Health Authority of Abu Dhabi were analyzed for the patients' demographic variables, encounters characteristics, management costs and prescription patterns. In Abu Dhabi, 155,379 cases were recorded as requiring care for asthma in 2010, of whom 57% were males, 47% UAE nationals, and 46% pediatric (0-14 years) cases. There were 449,967 medical encounters for asthma, with a regional distribution reflecting that of the population, 49% were pediatric visits. Asthma care is available in 246 facilities, but only 66 use spirometry in assessing asthma. Leukotriene modifiers were the asthma-related drugs most frequently dispensed (49.4%); and the most costly drug category (67.7% of total costs). Anticholinergics and oral corticosteroids were next in prescription frequency (23.9% & 23.8% respectively).

Of all drugs, 33.3% were dispensed to children less than 5 years. Findings support the recommendations for on-going asthma surveillance focusing on epidemiological data and outcome quality. Promotion of evidence-based management standards is needed for all health providers involved in asthma care.