

European Respiratory Society Annual Congress 2012

Abstract Number: 4140

Publication Number: P2387

Abstract Group: 5.3. Allergy and Immunology

Keyword 1: Allergy **Keyword 2:** Epidemiology **Keyword 3:** Public health

Title: Association between paternal smoking and symptoms of asthma, rhinitis and eczema in Chinese schoolchildren

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Body: Introduction: Parental passive smoking has been associated with adverse respiratory outcomes in children. Evidence remains inconclusive as to whether smoking is a risk factor for allergic disorders in children. The aim of the study was to evaluate the association between paternal smoking and symptoms of asthma and allergies in Chinese schoolchildren. Body: We studied 10824 Chinese schoolchildren from Shijiazhuang city in Hebei province in China. We used an ISAAC questionnaire and we added questions related to paternal smoking. The prevalence of paternal and maternal smoking in China is 56.52% and 1.34%, respectively. The prevalence rates of all symptoms of asthma, rhinitis and eczema were significantly higher in children exposed to paternal passive smoking compared with children not exposed to paternal smoking (wheeze ever 6.5% vs 4.6%, $P<0.001$; current wheeze 2.3% vs 1.5%; exercise-induced wheezing 3.9% vs 2.4%, $P<0.001$; cough 13.2% vs 8.7%, $P<0.001$; ever rhinitis 15.3% vs 11.6%, $P<0.001$; current rhinitis, 10.8% vs 8.1%; hay fever 4.7% vs 3.7%, $P<0.05$; ever chronic rash 2.9% vs 1.8%, $P<0.01$; current rash 1.8% vs 0.9%; and eczema 12.9% vs 9.7%, $P<0.001$, respectively). The study which is part of a major longitudinal study on Chinese children shows a strong association between parental smoking and symptoms of asthma, rhinitis and eczema and that Paternal passive smoking is an important risk for asthma and allergy in Chinese children.