

European Respiratory Society Annual Congress 2012

Abstract Number: 3967

Publication Number: P4107

Abstract Group: 7.2. Paediatric Asthma and Allergy

Keyword 1: Asthma - diagnosis **Keyword 2:** Comorbidities **Keyword 3:** Lung function testing

Title: Fatigue: A symptom of asthma in children?

Mrs. Ghislaine 24570 van der Zande gvdzande1@hetnet.nl ¹, Mr. W.B. 24571 Vreede tvreede@dekinderkliniek.nl MD ¹ and Dr. H. 24572 Heneweer hans.heneweer@hu.nl ². ¹ Paediatric Pulmonology, DeKinderkliniek, Almere, Netherlands, 1315 RA and ² Master Program Physician Assistant, Hogeschool Utrecht, Netherlands, 3508 AD .

Body: Introduction: In children with symptoms of fatigue asthma is frequently diagnosed. However fatigue is not mentioned as a symptom in definitions of asthma in children. Aim of the study: Exploration of the consistency between the symptom fatigue and the diagnosis asthma in children. Consequently asthma can be diagnosed earlier and faster and the care for these patients will improve. Method: A retrospective analysis of the files of 440 patients between the age of 5 and 18 years with the diagnose Asthma de Novo between May 15th 2009 and May 15th 2011. The data of patient characteristics, pulmonary function tests and symptoms were analyzed.

Patients characteristics

	Boys	Girls
Patients	254 (58%)	186 (42%)
Age	9.9 (SD 3.1)	11.0(SD 3.6)
FEV1 in %	92.4 (42-135%)	95.0 (38-133%)
PD20 mcg	835	713
Fatigue	127 (50,0%)	101 (54.3%)

Results: There was an uneven distribution between boys (58%) and girls. The boys had a average age of 9.9 years, the girls of 11.0 years. In both groups the various pulmonary function parameters were abnormal. 52% of the patients complained of fatigue. The distribution of symptoms in boys and girls is equally.

Conclusion: Fatigue is the most frequently mentioned symptom of asthma in children, after complaints during exercise, dyspnea and coughing. Fatigue is not a specific symptom. The results can therefore only be an assumption. It is recommended to involve asthma in the differential diagnosis of unexplained fatigue in children.

