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Title: Psychological comorbidity (depression and anxiety) in children with asthma

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Body: Introduction Although there is some evidence linking asthma to psychological co-morbidity, considerable controversy remains about the exact nature and strength of this association. Objective To compare the prevalence of psychological symptoms (anxiety, depression and low level of self-esteem), in children with partly or well-controlled asthma to that of healthy peers. Methods Using validated questionnaires we quantified the degree of symptoms of anxiety, depression and low level of self-esteem in 70 patients with asthma and in 70 healthy age-, sex-, and socio-economic-status matched controls. Results We found no significant differences in anxiety, depression or low level of self-esteem between groups (p-values ranging from 0.148 to 0.387) Small, but significant differences were found in the competence subscales "behaviour and attitude" (p=0.040) and "loneliness" (p=0.017), both being poorer in the asthma group. Conclusion Children with partly or well-controlled asthma do not have an increased risk of psychological comorbidity. Earlier reports of psychological comorbidity in asthma may be due to uncontrolled asthma.