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**Title:** Effects of caregiver depression on child depression and asthma: Mediation by inter-parent conflict and negative parenting

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**Body:** Caregiver and child chronic stress and depression are linked with poor outcomes in child asthma, mediated by poor disease management and/or by psychobiologic stress mechanisms. Pathways of effect are unknown. Purpose: Our goal is to elucidate pathways. We hypothesize that parent depression contributes to inter-parent conflict and negative parenting which contribute to child depression (CD), which in turn predicts asthma disease activity (ADA). Methods: Asthmatic children (N=106, age 7-17), fathers and mothers were studied. Parent depression was indexed by self-report BDI. Inter-parent and parenting behavior was observed and rated during stressful family interaction tasks. The Iowa Family Rating Scale was used, intra-class correlations: .79-.83. The CDI and Clinician Ratings indexed CD. NHLBI criteria indexed (ADA). Results: Structural equation modeling showed a pathway from mother depression (MD) to child depression (CD) mediated by negative parenting.  $\chi^2(32, N=106) = 57.50, p = .004, IFI = .89, CFI = .87, RMSEA = .09$ . CD predicted ADA ( $B = .28, p = .05$ ). Father depression (FD) was linked to negative parenting ( $B = .29, p = .001$ ) and to inter-parent conflict ( $B = .32, p = .01$ ) but father negative parenting was not linked to CD. However, FD contributed to inter-parent conflict which contributed to negative MATERNAL parenting which was linked with CD and ADA. Conclusions: MD predicted CD and ADA, mediated by negative parenting, whereas FD predicted inter-parent conflict, which predicted CD and ADA mediated by maternal negative parenting. These findings suggest that father and mother depression both play a role in child depression and asthma disease activity, but through different pathways.