Diagnosing asthma in children or adolescents/young adults? It is time for a change! How timing is everything, also in clinical practice

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In 1190 AD, in one of the first expert-based guidelines on asthma, Maimonides already points out that "asthma should be treated according to the various causes that bring it about." He further states that "one can only manage the disease properly with a thorough knowledge of the patient’s constitution and his individual organs, his age and habits, the season and the climate" [1]. So he already recognised several risk factors, such as genetic components, environmental exposures and comorbidities. Since then, we have come a long way, and think we understand and treat asthma better, but we can still struggle to diagnose or rule out asthma in patients who are referred to us. And this is even more of a challenge when we are dealing with (young) children.