



Peer Review

An audit of the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the emotional wellbeing of children and parents with problematic severe asthma

Summary:

Overall the paper summarizes the challenges due to the ongoing COVID19 pandemic, faced by the paediatric and the young population having asthma as well as their primary caregivers. The findings of the paper show that due to heightened emotional turmoil caused by the lockdown, their asthmatic symptoms and ancillary activities related to asthma have been detrimentally affected. This should be effectively looked at by the healthcare professionals at the earliest.

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Strengths:

The topic focuses on an issue that is of grave concern and is addressed well via the research conducted in this paper. The article is concise, succinct and brings out the important points well. It is easy to read, interpret and understand the results followed by the conclusion. The authors have an easy methodology and focus on bringing out the practical difficulties faced by the target group in this paper.

Introduction:

While this section introduces the topic, the setting of the premise for what follows could be highlighted better. An in-depth background of the research setting could better prepare the readers for what is to follow. This could include a literature review of past work done in similar or moderately fields. The introduction seems to end abruptly. Gaps in the current understanding of the topic and the reason for taking up this topic as research could have been focused on here. A history of the different components (COVID19 pandemic, asthma, cases recorded in the target group, mental health concerns) in this paper could be elaborated a bit more to give a well-detailed structure.

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Method:

The methods used in this study are well explained and easy to follow. The rationale behind developing the questionnaires for both the participant groups seems to be missing. It is not clear on what grounds the questions were chosen or created (whether a past paper was used as inspiration or a standardised scale was used to create the same).

Article Information

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Results:

This section is easy to follow and shows the significant findings of the study. It could have been better structured and represented with the use of plots, graphs and figures instead of only text. The numbers and the data could have been summarised in this way and it would be easier for the readers to interpret the gross findings. Comparative analysis in the form of graphs and plots between the parental and child findings could help in understanding the final datasets better.

Discussion and Conclusion:

Citations are needed in certain areas where statements are made regarding past reports. While this section has captured the message of the research well, recommendations from the findings and suggestions to improve the problem statement could improve the quality of this paper. Language: While the language of the article is fairly simple and smooth, flowing effortlessly, there are a few areas where the authors could have used more scientific oriented language to make the work and results appear crisp and clean. A few errors in the grammar have been noticed: - "Amongst a cohort of with severe asthma children and young persons, attending..." - "Parents reported that the emotional wellbeing of their child was impacting on asthma symptoms.." - "Parents' perception of the emotional welling being of their children....."

Overall, this paper is a good attempt at addressing a strong issue with the right techniques.