

PROJECT BRIEF

Maintenance vs. Intermittent Inhaled Steroids in Wheezing Toddlers (MIST): A CARE Network Protocol

Background

Since asthma is the most common chronic childhood disease in the U.S., the CARE Network was established to evaluate treatments for children with asthma. The **National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) established the Childhood Asthma Research and Education (CARE) Network in 1999**. Five clinical centers, two satellite centers, and a data-coordinating center were selected to participate in this research network. The CARE Network is conducting several studies for children with asthma and they have been sharing their findings with the health care community.



Problem

Many times preschool children with frequent recurrent and intermittent wheezing episodes brought on by a viral infection require either the use of systemic corticosteroid treatments or hospitalizations to treat their symptoms. This poses a major public health challenge.

Purpose

The purpose of this research study is to find out if the use of a higher dose of inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) can reduce the severity of wheezing symptoms when used only during a cold as compared to a more standard therapy of using a low dose of ICS every day.

Objectives

This study will collect empirical data on the questions about treatment in preschool children:

- *In toddlers who wheeze, can they use medications only when they are sick versus everyday?*
- *What is the safety and efficacy of these two ICS regimens directed at both reducing the risk and impairment of recurrent wheezing in toddlers?*

Population Served

Nationwide, 250 at-risk children (age 12-53 months) who have a positive asthma predictive index and history of a severe exacerbation in the prior year.

Timeline

Individual study participation lasts for 12 months; the study is slated to end in late 2010.

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Funding Source

National Institute of Health's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)

Local Principal Investigator

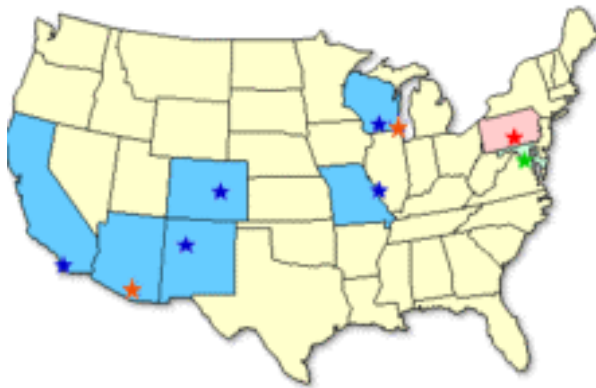
Elizabeth Bade, M.D.
Aurora UW Medical Group

For more information, contact:

Ruth Perez, B.A.
Project Coordinator
(414) 219-CARE (2273)
ruth.1.perez@aurora.org

Or visit the Care Network website:
<http://www.asthma-carenet.org/>

CARE Network Sites



★ Clinical Centers

Denver: National Jewish Medical & Research Center

Madison: University of Wisconsin

San Diego: University of California

Kaiser Permanente California

St. Louis: Washington University

Tucson: University of Arizona

★ Satellite Centers

Albuquerque: University of New Mexico

Milwaukee: Center for Urban Population Health

★ Data Coordinating Center

Hershey: Penn State University

★ NIH Funding Agency

Bethesda, MD: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

CARE Network Organizational Information

Administratively, the main governing body of the network is its Steering Committee. The Steering Committee consists of the Principal Investigator from each Clinical Center, the Principal Investigator from the Data Coordinating Center, a Chairman who is not an Investigator, and a Project Scientist from the NHLBI.

The Center for Urban Population Health is a partnership among the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Aurora Health Care, Inc. Our mission is advancing population health research and education to improve the health of urban communities.