

Supplementary Tables

Table A.

Table accessible from Department of Health document Gateway number: 12368 at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_106495

The community assessment tools are part of a clinical package of care, which includes pathways that provide extra safety measures for people who are moderately unwell, but cannot be admitted to hospital at the time of triage.

These tools and pathways are for use only when high healthcare demand leads to the need for strict hospital admission triage in affected areas. They should not be used when emergency departments and acute admission units are working with their usual establishment of trained staff, and can operate their usual decision pathways, including providing hospital beds for those requiring admission.

Table B: Comparison of clinical features on hospital admission in children (<16 years) with asthma and non-asthma (n=480)

Outcome variable	Asthma cases n=71 (14.8%)	Non-asthmatics n=409(85.2%)	Unadjusted OR (95% CI)	P value
Triage criteria A: severe respiratory distress	38 (53.5%)	309 (75.6%)	1.00	<0.001
No	33 (46.5%)	100 (24.5%)	2.68 (1.60-4.50)	
Triage criteria B: increased respiratory rate	41 (57.8%)	256 (62.6%)	1.00	0.438
No	30 (42.3%)	153 (37.4%)	1.22 (0.73-2.04)	
Triage criteria C: oxygen saturation ≤92%	42 (59.2%)	299 (73.1%)	1.00	0.018
No	29 (40.9%)	110 (26.9%)	1.88 (1.11-3.16)	
Triage criteria D: respiratory exhaustion				
No	71 (100.0%)	408 (99.8%)	1.00	
Yes	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.2%)	-*	-
Triage criteria E: Severe clinical dehydration				
No	71 (100.0%)	403 (98.5%)	1.00	
Yes	0 (0.0%)	6 (1.5%)	-*	-

Outcome variable	Asthma cases n=71 (14.8%)	Non-asthmatics n=409(85.2%)	Unadjusted OR (95% CI)	P value
Triage criteria F: altered consciousness				
No	63 (88.7%)	364 (89.0%)	1.00	0.948
Yes	8 (11.3%)	45 (11.0%)	1.03 (0.46-2.28)	
Triage criteria G: other clinical concern				
No	65 (91.6%)	374 (91.4%)	1.00	0.976
Yes	6 (8.5%)	35 (8.6%)	0.99 (0.40-2.44)	
Dyspnoea				
No	43 (60.6%)	326 (79.7%)	1.00	0.001
Yes	28 (39.4%)	83 (20.3%)	2.56 (1.50-4.36)	
Required supplemental oxygen on admission				
No	44 (62.0%)	327 (80.0%)	1.00	0.001
Yes	27 (38.0%)	82 (20.0%)	2.45 (1.43-4.19)	

Table C: Comparison of clinical features on hospital admission in adults (>16 years) with asthma and non-asthma (n=1040)

Outcome variable	Asthma cases n=314 (30.2%)	Non-asthmatics n=726 (69.8%)	Unadjusted OR (95% CI)	P value
Triage criteria A: severe respiratory distress				
No	84 (26.8%)	427 (58.5%)	1.00	<0.001
Yes	230 (73.3%)	299 (41.2%)	3.91 (2.93-5.23)	

Outcome variable	Asthma cases n=314 (30.2%)	Non- asthmatics n=726 (69.8%)	Unadjusted OR (95% CI)	P value
Triage criteria B: increased respiratory rate				
No	253 (80.6%)	538 (74.1%)	1.00	
Yes	61 (19.4%)	188 (25.9%)	0.69 (0.50-0.96)	0.025
Triage criteria C: oxygen saturation \leq 92%				
No	170 (54.1%)	458 (63.1%)	1.00	
Yes	144 (45.9%)	268 (36.9%)	1.45 (1.11-1.89)	0.007
Triage criteria D: respiratory exhaustion				
No	302 (96.2%)	715 (98.5%)	1.00	
Yes	12 (3.8%)	11 (1.5%)	2.58 (1.13-5.92)	0.025
Triage criteria E: Severe clinical dehydration				
No	255 (81.2%)	609 (83.9%)	1.00	
Yes	59 (18.8%)	117 (16.1%)	1.20 (0.85-1.70)	0.291
Triage criteria F: altered consciousness				
No	305 (97.1%)	683 (94.1%)	1.00	
Yes	9 (2.9%)	43 (5.9%)	0.47 (0.23-0.97)	0.042
Triage criteria G: other clinical concern				
No	282 (89.8%)	658 (90.6%)	1.00	
Yes	32 (10.2%)	68 (9.4%)	1.10 (0.71-	0.679

Outcome variable	Asthma cases n=314 (30.2%)	Non- asthmatics n=726 (69.8%)	Unadjusted OR (95% CI)	P value
			1.71)	
Dyspnoea				
No	117 (37.3%)	459 (63.2%)	1.00	<0.001
Yes	197 (62.7%)	267 (36.8%)	2.89 (2.20-3.81)	
Required supplemental oxygen on admission				
No	201 (64.0%)	513 (70.7%)	1.00	0.034
Yes	113 (36.0%)	213 (29.3%)	1.35 (1.02-1.79)	

Table D: Effect on the observed association between asthma and severe outcomes on adjustment for the covariates that were independently associated with both exposure (asthma) and severe outcomes

Covariate adjusted for	Adjusted OR (95% CI)	p value
Unadjusted OR	0.51 (0.36-0.72)	<0.001
Triage criteria A: severe respiratory distress	0.34 (0.24-0.49)	<0.001
Triage criteria B: increased respiratory rate	0.53 (0.37-0.75)	<0.001
Triage criteria C: oxygen saturation \leq 92%	0.37 (0.26-0.54)	<0.001
Triage criteria D: respiratory exhaustion	0.46 (0.32-0.66)	<0.001
Triage criteria E: severe clinical dehydration or clinical shock	0.46 (0.32-0.66)	<0.001
Triage criteria F: altered consciousness	0.54 (0.38-0.77)	0.001
Dyspnoea	0.38 (0.27-0.55)	<0.001
Admission \leq 4 days symptom onset	0.64 (0.43-0.95) [†]	0.029
Pre-admission inhaled corticosteroids	0.63 (0.42-0.94) [†]	0.024
Required supplemental oxygen on admission	0.37 (0.26-0.54)	<0.001
In-hospital antibiotics	0.49 (0.35-0.70)	<0.001
In-hospital oral/IV corticosteroids	0.32 (0.22-0.48)	<0.001

† Crude OR changed by $\geq 10\%$ towards 1