

DOES RHINITIS LEAD TO ASTHMA? GA2LEN REVIEWS THE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

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Message:

A symposium held on Sunday 10 June at the congress of European allergists presented the research and clinical basis of the GA2LEN campaign Does Rhinitis lead to Asthma?'. Researchers from GA2LEN, the Global Allergy and Asthma European Network, highlight the importance to recognise rhinitis in asthma patients and similarly asthma in rhinitis patients, in a united airways perspective.

Although, rhinitis and asthma are often treated by different medical disciplines, they are commonly linked and there is increasing evidence that rhinitis may influence the development of asthma. However, the precise pathological mechanisms are not fully understood and many gaps in the understanding of the processes remain.

The Symposium "GA2LEN fills the gap: rhinitis and asthma" held on 10 June at the EAACI Congress in Gothenburg, Sweden (1) explored the present European and international research in the concept of "one airway, one disease". Evidence and clinical approaches were discussed, also in the specific case of children. Main messages for health professionals were presented in the context of the campaign "Does Rhinitis lead to Asthma?" (2).

GA2LEN provides an integrated platform for research in allergy and asthma. The link between upper and lower airways diseases is investigated from a multidisciplinary perspective in several work packages, covering epidemiology, physiopathology and pharmacological links. A peer-reviewed paper on this topic is published this month by a multidisciplinary team of scientists and clinicians in GA2LEN (3).

GA2LEN thanks Phadia and UCB Pharma for their support to the campaign through educational grants.

Notes

1. EAACI Göteborg 2007, Sweden, XXVI Congress of the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology (EAACI). GA2LEN Symposium: GA2LEN fills the gap: rhinitis and asthma, Sunday 10 June 2007, 3.30-5.00 pm. Chairs: Jean-Baptiste Watelet, University of Ghent, Belgium & Magnus Wickman, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden.
Speakers: GA2LEN / InterAirways, Paul van Cauwenberge, Belgium / From asthma to rhinitis in children, Magnus Wickman, Sweden / Practical approaches, Elina Toskala, Finland / Does rhinitis lead to asthma? The GA2LEN campaign, Joaquim Mullol, Spain
2. The GA2LEN campaign, Does Rhinitis lead to Asthma aims to alert healthcare professionals and patients of the importance of the link between rhinitis and asthma for the management of one or both these allergic diseases, whether or not the link between rhinitis and asthma is causal. In any event, rhinitis should always be treated. A backgrounder is available on request.
3. Does rhinitis lead to asthma? Paul Van Cauwenberge, Jean-Baptiste Watelet, Thibaut Van Zele, De-Yun Wang, Elina Toskala, Stephen Durham, Wytske Fokkens, Susanne Lau, Benedicte Leynaert, Magnus Wickman, Marianella Salapatras, Peter Burney, Joaquim Mullol and members of GA2LEN workpackages 3.2. and 3.3. Rhinology 2007, 45, 112-121, 2007
4. GA2LEN, the Global Allergy and Asthma European Network, is a multi-national network bringing together the wealth of research and clinical activities related to allergic diseases taking place in different countries of Europe. It originally brought together a core of leading researchers and clinicians from 25 European centres of excellence to share expertise. It has since grown to incorporate more than 50 new collaborating centres. The European societies: the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) and the European Federation of Allergy and Airway Diseases Patients Association are partners of GA2LEN. GA2LEN is a Network of Excellence funded by the European Union. www.ga2len.net

Contact

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