justified if it improves outcome. NBS offers the potential for early intervention in order to preserve lung function and nutritional status. There are few, if any, ways of satisfactorily monitoring such babies non-invasively. To date the feasibility of recruiting newborn babies to invasive studies within the first few weeks following diagnosis is unknown.

Aim To assess the feasibility of recruiting and retaining infants diagnosed by NBS to an invasive observational study, prior to proposing an interventional study.

Methods All children presenting from the CF NBS programme from six centres comprising the London CF Collaboration (LCFC: Great Ormond St, Royal Brompton, Kings College, Royal London, Lewisham University and Epsom and St Helier's Hospitals) are being invited to participate in a study which involves infant lung function under sedation at ~3 and 12 months plus a combined CT, bronchoscopy and BAL under GA at ~12 months, within 3 weeks after the lung function test.

Results Since commencement of this study, 63 infants have screened positive for CF of whom five were ineligible (co-existent morbidities or moving away from area). Of the 58 eligible babies, seven have either declined (6) or withdrawn (1), eight families are currently considering participation and 43 have consented to participate. Infant lung function at 3 months has been undertaken in 43 babies (mean age at test 10.8 (SD 2.4) weeks. Of the 16 babies that have now reached one year of age, all have completed their follow-up lung function test and 15 have had their CT and BAL, with one awaiting an appointment. To date, parents' attitudes to taking part in this study have been universally positive.

Conclusions Despite initial concerns from some reviewers regarding the ability to recruit and retain families whose infants have been diagnosed with CF by NBS into clinical studies with invasive outcomes, these preliminary data indicate that it is possible to recruit a high proportion of babies to such a study. These results suggest that future interventional studies will be feasible.

P73 THE COMPLEXITIES OF DEFINING ATOPY IN SEVERE CHILDHOOD ASTHMA

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J Frith, L Fleming, C Bossley, N Ullmann, A Bush. *Royal Brompton Hospital, London, UK*

Background Defining atopy in children with severe therapy resistant asthma is complex. There is currently no gold standard test; skin prick testing (SPT) and allergen specific immunoglobulin E (sIgE) are both used. Atopy is increasingly considered to be a spectrum, not an all-or-none phenomenon (Allergy 2007;**62**:1379–86).

Hypothesis SPTs and sIgE cannot be used interchangeably, and that if both tests are not performed opportunities for intervention will be missed. Furthermore, severity of atopy will be defined differently by the two tests. Total IgE and fractional exhaled nitric oxide (FeNO₅₀) may also help quantify atopy.

Methods Cross-sectional study of 47 children with severe therapy resistant asthma, mean age 11.8 years (range 5.3–16.6 years) who underwent measurement of a standard panel (house dust mite (HDM), dog, cat, weed pollens and grass pollens) of SPTs and sIgEs, total IgE and FeNO₅₀ as part of their clinical work up.

Results Overall 42/47 (89%) were atopic (defined as either a single positive SPT or sIgE). There was 98% concordance between the two tests in classifying atopy. When each allergen was considered individually, in 40/201 (19.8%) the SPT and sIgE results were discordant (Abstract P73 Figure 1), most commonly, 25/201 (12.4%) the SPT was negative and the sIgE was positive. HDM and cat sensitisation were more likely detected by sIgE, but dog by SPT. When atopy was quantified the sum of sIgEs compared with the sum of SPT wheal diameter showed only moderate correlation ($r=0.66$, $p<0.001$). Total IgE increased with an increasing number of positive sIgEs

($p=0.028$), but not significantly with number of positive SPTs. There was a significant correlation between FeNO₅₀ and total IgE ($r=0.34$, $p=0.02$), but no difference in FeNO₅₀ when patients were defined as atopic on either SPT or sIgE, and no relationship with increasing numbers of positive SPTs or sIgEs.

Abstract P73 Figure 1 Comparison of sIgE and SPT wheal diameter for each individual allergen from the standard panel (n=201). Dotted lines show the cut-off for a positive test result. Discordant results indicated by shaded areas.

Conclusions SPT and sIgE identify the group prevalence of atopy equally well; however for some allergens, concordance is poor, and when used to quantify atopy SPT and sIgE show only moderate correlation. If allergen avoidance is contemplated in children with severe therapy resistant asthma, then both tests should be performed in order to detect sensitisation.

P74 BRITISH ASTHMA GUIDELINE REVISION DOES AFFECT PRESCRIBING PATTERNS IN CHILDREN

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H Elkout, J S McLay, C R Simpson, P J Helms. *Child Health, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, UK*

Background Although audits of prescribing practice referenced to the British asthma management guidelines have been reported little is known on the impact of guideline revisions. Concerns about the use of high dose inhaled corticosteroids (ICS) in children, implicit in earlier adult oriented guidelines, has resulted in the promotion of add on therapy with long acting beta agonist (LABA) and/or leukotriene receptor antagonist (LTRA) and advice on age appropriate doses of short courses of oral corticosteroids (OCS) for exacerbations.

Methods Prescribing of asthma medication for children 0–18 years from 46 Scottish General Practices contributing to the Practice Team Information (PTI) database was assessed before (2001–2) and after the 2003 BTS/SIGN guideline revision¹ (2005–6). PTI represents the rural/urban and socioeconomic make up of the whole Scottish population and includes 155 230 children in the 0–18 year age group (7.2–7.8% with at least one prescription for an asthma medication per year).

Results In those children prescribed at least one asthma medication in each year of study, ICS at high dose (>400 µg beclometasone equivalent) decreased from 16.3% in 2001–2 to 11.7% in 2005–6 ($p<0.001$). This was accompanied by an increase in the prescribing of add-on therapy (LABA and/or LTRA) from 15.0% in 2001–2 to 26.2% in 2005–6. Prescribing of short courses (5–7 days) of OCS increased most prominently in children aged <5 years (from 6% in

2001–2 to 16% in 2005–6, $p<0.001$) for children at all treatment steps including those prescribed short acting beta agonist only. Only 27 children were prescribed LABA without concurrent ICS and of the 710 children prescribed LABA/ICS combination, 176 (25%) had not been prescribed ICS in the previous year.

Conclusions Revisions of the BTS/SIGN guidelines do modify prescribing practice in children. The greater use of LABA, LTRA and reduction in ICS dose has been accompanied by a greater use of OCS that may reflect poorer control of acute episodes or a lower threshold and greater confidence by prescribers in the use of OCS.

Abstract P74 Table 1 Change (%) in asthma medications prescribing by age group

	2001–2002	2005–2006	p-value
LABA			
0–4	2.5	3.8	NS
5–11	10.1	16.8	<0.001
12–18	11.1	14.7	<0.001
LTRA			
0–4	2.8	8.4	<0.001
5–11	3.3	7.3	<0.001
12–18	2.8	3.8	NS
OCS			
0–4	9.0	16.0	<0.001
5–11	6.7	9.6	<0.01
12–18	5.3	6.5	NS

P75 CLINICAL PREDICTORS OF CONTINUOUS POSITIVE AIRWAY PRESSURE REQUIREMENT IN BRONCHIOLITIS

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J Evans, M Marlais, E Abrahamson. *Department of Paediatric Emergency Medicine, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London, UK*

Background Bronchiolitis is the commonest respiratory viral illness in infants with the potential for significant morbidity. There is growing evidence for the use of continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) non-invasive ventilation in the most seriously affected of these children. Despite the increasing literature regarding the use of CPAP there are currently no studies which identify clinical predictors of requirement for CPAP using the UK bronchiolitis age limit of 12 months, leaving the decision to clinical judgement alone.

Objective To identify clinical factors in infants with bronchiolitis at the time of presentation to the emergency department, which might predict a requirement for CPAP following admission.

Methods Retrospective review of paediatric emergency department case notes was conducted on all bronchiolitis admissions to one tertiary paediatric emergency department in a 12-month period (April 2009–March 2010). Inclusion criteria consisted of a clinical diagnosis of bronchiolitis in those 12 months of age or under. Potential clinical predictors were identified through an extensive literature review. Data extraction of these predetermined potential clinical predictors was carried out and recorded for each case. Logistic regression was then conducted for each variable to identify statistically significant independent predictors of CPAP requirement.

Results During the study period 163 infants were admitted with acute bronchiolitis. Of the 163 infants admitted 28 (17%) received CPAP. The most significant predictors of CPAP requirement in those admitted were as follows: lower oxygen saturation (mean 92.7% vs 97.1%, $p<0.001$), oxygen requirement in the emergency department (89.3% vs 24.4%, $p<0.001$), lower weight at presentation (mean

4221 g vs 6668 g, $p<0.001$), higher capillary blood gas PaCO_2 (mean 8.32 kPa vs 6.05 kPa, $p<0.001$) and higher capillary blood gas HCO_3^- (mean 30.5 mmol/l vs 26.5 mmol/l, $p<0.001$).

Conclusion We have identified a number of clinical variables which may be assessed within the emergency department, each independently predictive of CPAP requirement in those who are admitted with bronchiolitis. These findings are of particular importance as an aid to clinical assessment of bronchiolitis severity. They are also likely to have a useful role in logistical management decisions, allowing early planning for non-invasive ventilation.

P76 GENERAL AND RESPIRATORY HEALTH OUTCOMES IN ADULT SURVIVORS OF BRONCHOPULMONARY DYSPLASIA: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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A Gough, D Spence, M A Linden, L McGarvey, H Halliday. *Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland*

Introduction and objectives Bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) is the most common form of chronic lung disease in infancy and the second most common after asthma in children. With the improved survival of extremely preterm infants the incidence of BPD has increased. Currently there is only limited information on the health of BPD survivors who have reached adulthood. The purpose of this systematic literature review was to examine current empirical research on adult survivors of BPD.

Methods Six electronic databases were searched between 1950 and February 2010 (Medline, PubMed, Embase, PsycINFO, Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL Plus) and Web of Knowledge. Studies were independently screened and were only included if they related to the assessment of outcome measures in adult survivors of BPD. From a total of 1453 search results, 14 eligible studies were included in the review. Data on methodological design and findings were extracted from each included study; in addition the methodological quality of each study was assessed using the *Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP)* checklist.

Results 14 cohort studies met the review criteria. 12 scored highly on the CASP checklist, with a score >10 out of 12. No study scored less than 7. Nine studies included a control group and only four studies in total had a singular focus on BPD outcomes. Six controlled studies found differences between the groups on respiratory symptoms. 11 studies carried out lung function testing and found evidence of airflow obstruction. Of these, one study found no difference between preterm and controls. However, there were only seven adults who were born preterm with BPD in this study. Five studies in total examined radiographical outcomes, and all found evidence of abnormalities. Those with moderate-severe BPD were found to be most affected compared to mild BPD subjects.

Conclusions The effects of BPD on pulmonary function do not diminish over time. This may reflect issues related to means of testing, differing definitions and classification of BPD, and the adaptation of individuals to their circumstances over time.

P77 CHILDREN'S EXPOSURE TO AIRBORNE FINE PARTICULATE MATTER AT HOME AND ASTHMA OUTCOMES

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K Woods, A Apsley, S Semple, S W Turner. *University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, UK*

Objectives The relationship between indoor air exposure to fine particulate ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$) and asthma symptoms in children is uncertain. The aim of the present study was to relate $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ exposure to indices of asthma severity and control.