This work is a pilot study as part of a sixth form Biology extended essay, all participants signed a written consent form.

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P121 DOES METHACHOLINE CHALLENGE TEST IMPROVE ASTHMA DIAGNOSTIC CERTAINTY IN CHILDREN AGE 5–16YR?

L Healy, A Hargreaves, R Wang, S Drake, L Willmore, R Tudge, J Mitchell, L Lowe, G Kerry, M Porter, S Fowler, A Simpson, CS Murray. *Division of Infection, Immunity and Respiratory Medicine, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK*

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Introduction Current UK guidance (NICE) for diagnosing asthma in children 5–16yrs involves sequential lung function testing in a complex algorithm (spirometry; bronchodilator reversibility if spirometry shows obstructions; FeNO; PEFv). This results in three diagnostic outcomes: asthma, not asthma or suspect asthma, with children requiring at least 2 positive tests to be assigned a diagnosis of asthma. Bronchial challenge testing (BCT) is not currently recommended in children but is in adults when there is diagnostic uncertainty.

We hypothesised that methacholine BCT (BCTmeth) is feasible in children >5 years and that the results can reduce the number of children labelled 'suspect asthma'.

Methods Children aged 5–16 years with suspected asthma (symptoms of wheeze, cough, breathlessness) were referred into the RADicA (Rapid Access Diagnostics in Asthma) Study. All attempted lung function testing (spirometry with bronchodilator reversibility, FeNO, PEFv and BCTmeth). Using the NICE algorithm, participants were assigned as asthma, not asthma or suspect asthma. BCTmeth were classed as positive when PD20 was <0.20mg, and children's asthma status was reassessed with this result.

Results 53 children (mean age 9.5yr [SD 3.4]; 25 male) attempted all tests. 8 children (mean age 8.75yrs [SD 3.6]; 4 male) did not complete BCTmeth; 2 children's baseline spirometry was classed as obstructed prior to BCTmeth, 1 had taken salbutamol prior to BCTmeth and 5 had inconsistent baseline spirometry, these were excluded from further analysis.

Abstract P121 Table 1 Number of children classed as asthma, not asthma and suspect asthma before and after BCTmeth

	Using NICE lung function algorithm N (%)	Using NICE lung function algorithm AND BCTmeth N (%)
Asthma	7 (15.5%)	13 (28.8%)
Not asthma	29 (64.4%)	30 (66.6%)
Suspect asthma	8 (17.7%)	1 (2.2%)
Missing evidence	1 (2.2%)	1 (2.2%)
Total	45	45

45 children (mean age 9.5yrs [SD3.4], 21 male) successfully completed BCTmeth; of these children 20 had a positive test (PD20 <0.15mg-0.199mg). 1 child was unable to complete FeNO and/or PEFv (positive BCTmeth) and classed as 'missing evidence'. Using the NICE algorithm, 7 children were diagnosed with asthma (5 positive BCTmeth) and 29 without asthma (7 positive BCTmeth). Of the 8 children with suspect asthma; 6 had a positive BCTmeth and could be given a diagnosis of asthma, 1 had a negative test and was reclassified as not asthma and 1 had a borderline result (PD20 0.214mg) so remained in the suspect asthma group.

Conclusion BCTmeth is feasible with 85% of children successfully completing the challenge. Assessing airway hyperresponsiveness with BCTmeth reduced diagnostic uncertainty in children.

P122 AN EVALUATION OF THE TRANSITION SERVICE BETWEEN PAEDIATRIC AND ADULT REGIONAL SEVERE ASTHMA CARE IN LEEDS

¹C Doyle, ¹E Godinho, ²A Adams, ²U Clifton, ²E Guy. ¹University of Leeds, Leeds, UK; ²Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Leeds, UK

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Introduction Over one million children have asthma in the UK and a recognised need for support transitioning into adult services. Poor transition with uncoordinated processes risks disengagement from services, and poorer health outcomes. Transition processes are embedded for children with diabetes and transplantation, but less established for severe asthma. We aim to explore the patient experience of transition for young people with severe asthma and evaluate the impact of a transition service in reducing emergency department (ED) presentations with asthma.

Methods A questionnaire containing Likert scale and free text questions was developed based on the 'ready, steady, go'¹ programme. This was given to patients aged 14–15 years attending asthma transition clinic.

ED records for the years 2016–2018 were reviewed to identify patients aged 16–19 that presented with asthma symptoms. These data were cross-referenced with the registry of patients known to the transition service and demographic data was analysed.

Results 9 patients completed questionnaires, with two thirds of respondents reporting confidence about the transition process. All respondents reported good knowledge of their condition and treatment. Key themes that emerged were concerns about potential limits asthma may place upon their future achievements and a desire for understanding of management of their asthma during the transition process.

During the years analysed for ED attendances, none (0%) of the 17 children who underwent transition through the service presented to the emergency department with asthma. During that time, 131 young people (mean (SD) age 17.5 (0.7) years, 56% female) presented to the emergency department with asthma who were not known to the transition service.

Conclusion The transition service for young people with severe asthma is successful in preventing emergency department attendances with asthma symptoms. We have identified a need to expand the transition service to young people not already known to the regional severe asthma service.