

[IMAGE]

Antibiotic Use Linked to Asthma

More and more people are suffering from asthma these days, even though research shows that outdoor air pollutants are decreasing. What's the explanation for this disturbing trend? One possible answer may be just as disturbing.

A recent study published in the *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Allergy* examined the potential for antibiotic use in childhood to contribute to the development of asthma. A survey mailed to the parents of 612 grade-school students(5-10 years old) asked questions about antibiotic use and history of asthma in their children.

Results showed that children given antibiotics in their first year of life were over four times more likely to develop asthma symptoms than children who had never taken antibiotics. This increased risk was evident even after the researchers accounted for potential variables such as gender, ethnicity, family size, family history of asthma and parents' smoking habits.

If asthma is linked to antibiotics, then it's just another of many risk factors associated with antibiotic use. As a parent, you may want to think twice before giving antibiotics to your children, especially if they're not specifically required. Always find out why your doctor is prescribing a particular medication, and ask if there are acceptable nonpharmacological alternatives available. And get a second opinion -- from your chiropractor.

Reference:

Wickens K, Pearce N, Crane J, et al. Antibiotic use in early childhood and the development of asthma. *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Allergy*, 1999: Vol. 29, pp766-71.

For more information about asthma, go to <http://www.chiroweb.com/find/tellmeabout/asthma.html>

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