

In relation to the article: Meave-Cueva LG, Diaz-Garcia L, Llamosas Gallardo B, Ortiz-Hernandez AA, Measuring exhaled nitric oxide in children with asthmatic crisis: a systematic review. *Acta Pediatr Mex* 2013;34:247-252.:

The search algorithm used by the authors, described in Table 1, is noteworthy. Using the term "sensitivity FENO AND asthma" produced 0 matches. In the first place, FENO is not considered a "MeSH" term, and second, and more important, if the authors had used "sensitivity," which is the correct term, they would have found at least 76 matches (with the same algorithm).

A rapid search with the algorithm: (((fractional exhaled NO) OR FeNO) OR fractional exhaled nitric oxide) AND (((diagnostic utility) OR validity) OR specificity) OR sensitivity) OR utility) AND asthma on MEDLINE through PubMed limited to November 2012 found 125 matches. The same protocol in EMBASE through Ovid found 711 matches.

Including:

A systematic review and meta-analysis: tailoring asthma treatment on eosinophilic markers (exhaled nitric oxide or sputum eosinophils). Petsky HL, Cates CJ, Li AM, Kynaston JA, Turner C, Chang AB. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2008 Apr 16;(2):CD006340. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD006340.pub2. Review.

Update in: *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2009;(4):CD006340.

Tailored interventions based on exhaled nitric oxide versus clinical symptoms for asthma in children and adults. Petsky HL, Cates CJ, Lasser-Tson TJ, Li AM, Turner C, Kynaston JA, Chang AB. *Thorax*. 2012 Mar;67(3):199-208. doi: 10.1136/thx.2010.135574. Epub 2010 Oct 11. Review.

Diagnostic value of exhaled nitric oxide in childhood asthma and allergy.

Sachs-Olsen C., Lodrup Carlsen K.C., Mowinckel P., Haland G., Devulapalli C.S., Munthe-Kaas M.C., Carlsen K.H.

Pediatric allergy and immunology: official publication of the European Society of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology. 21 (1 Pt 2) (pp e213-221), 2010. Date of Publication: Feb 2010.

Diagnostic utility of inflammatory biomarkers in asthma: Exhaled nitric oxide and induced sputum eosinophil count.

Fortuna A.M., Feixas T., Gonzalez M., Casan P

Respiratory Medicine. 101 (11) (pp 2416-2421), 2007. Date of Publication: November 2007.

Diagnosing Asthma: Comparisons between Exhaled Nitric Oxide Measurements and Conventional Tests.

Smith A.D., Cowan J.O., Filsell S., McLachlan C., Monti-Sheehan G., Jackson P., Taylor D.R.



American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine. 169 (4) (pp 473-478), 2004. Date of Publication: 15 Feb 2004.

Childhood asthma: exhaled markers of airway inflammation, asthma control score, and lung function tests.

Rosias PP, Dompeling E, Dentener MA, Pennings HJ, Hendriks HJ, Van Iersel MP, Jöbsis Q.

Pediatr Pulmonol. 2004 Aug;38(2):107-14.

To mention the most relevant.

Despite the theoretical foundations that support the role of FeNO in relation to the pathogenesis of asthma, it has been difficult to determine its usefulness in clinical practice. Efforts similar to those made by the authors are necessary to take the raw data from the original studies to the day-to-day work of clinics that provide care for these patients. However, in view of the methodological aspects discussed above, I conclude that this publication fails to address the issue completely or from an up-to-date perspective.

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In response to the letter to the editor in relation to the article: Meave-Cueva LG, Diaz-Garcia L, Llamosas-Gallardo B, Ortiz-Hernandez AA. Measuring exhaled nitric oxide in children with asthmatic crisis: a systematic review. *Acta PediatrMex* 2013;34:247-252, we have the following comments:

The research question posed was whether measuring the exhaled fraction of nitric oxide (FENO) in children between 6 and 18 years of age **with asthmatic crisis** is useful to evaluate bronchial inflammation and evaluate initial response to treatment, decision for hospital release, and ambulatory control.

The primary aim of the review was to evaluate the usefulness of measuring FENO in children during an asthmatic crisis and not in children with controlled asthma or bronchial hyperactivity where its benefit is well studied, as the article mentions.

We appreciate the suggestions regarding methodology in the letter, and we will consider its recommendations in future projects. It is important to note that a prior study by the authors (reference 24 in the article) cites the articles excluded and the causes for eliminating them in the analysis. Some of the articles cited in the letter to the editor are specified therein.

On the other hand, no articles were found that analyze the usefulness of FENO in children during an asthmatic crisis in a "rapid search" with the algorithm suggested in the letter to the editor.

We also clarify here that our search of the literature concluded in May 2011, for which reason some new publications have appeared with results very similar to ours, as in the case of Petsky HL, Cates CJ, Li AM, Kynaston JA, Turner C, Chang AB. A systematic review and meta-analysis: tailoring asthma treatment on eosinophilic



markers (exhaled nitric oxide or sputum eosinophils). *Thorax*. 2012 Mar;67(3):199-208, which, after analyzing their six clinical trials concludes that there is no conclusive evidence to encourage doctors to incorporate measuring FeNO in their everyday practice.

The strength of this review lies in that it identified the opportunity to conduct research with a simple design like a comparative cross study or as complex as a randomized, placebo controlled clinical trial to evaluate the usefulness of measuring the exhaled fraction of nitric oxide (FENO)

in initial response to treatment, hospital release decision, and ambulatory control of children with asthmatic crisis who receive care at the National Institute of Pediatrics (Spanish acronym INP) emergency service.

We appreciate your interest in our work and your diligence in reviewing it.

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Luisa Diaz Garcia

Beatriz Llamosas Gallardo

Ana Alejandra Ortiz Hernandez

Correction of error

Due to an involuntary error by the Medical Publications Unit, the names of two coauthors of the article entitled "Use of gammaglobulin in transplant of hematopoietic stem cell and kidney transplant" were altered.

Reads: Dr. Maria de los Angeles Campos-Gutierrez, Mariana del Campo- Martinez.

Should read: Dr. Angeles del Campo Martinez, Mariana Campos Gutierrez.