

Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist Tehran University of Medical Sciences 1401













asthma

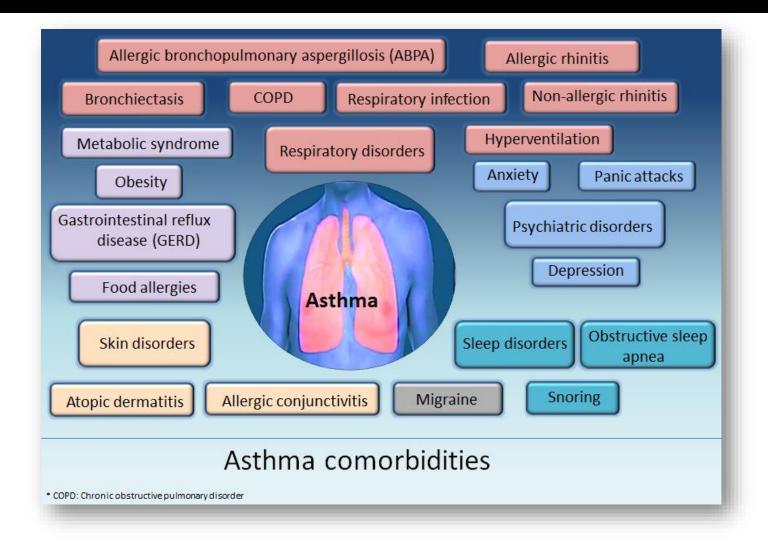
#### Psychiatrics Comorbidity in Asthma

Psychiatric Effects of Asthma Drugs





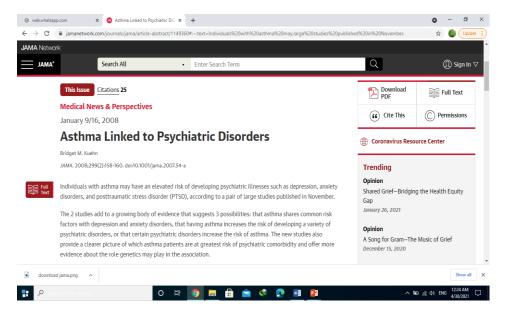
# مدیریت اختلالات همراه در آسم



#### **Asthma Linked to Psychiatric Disorders**



Individuals with asthma may have an elevated risk of developing psychiatric illnesses such as depression, anxiety disorders, and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).



# Comorbidities in adolescents with asthma



#### Allergic conditions/ atopy

Anxiety Depression

Gastroesophageal reflux (GERD)

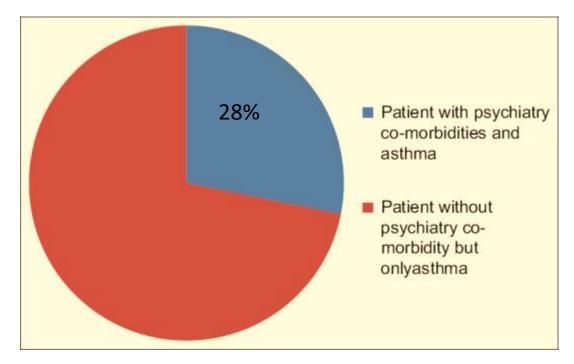
Obesity

Obstructive sleep apnea

Rhinosinusitis

**Vocal cord dysfunction** 

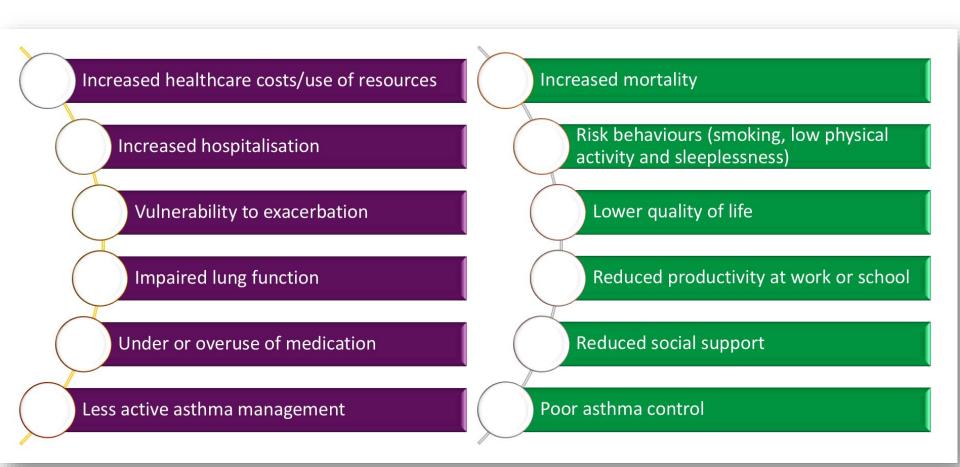
#### Prevalence of psychiatric comorbidities in asthma



doi: 10.4103/jfmpc.jfmpc\_1331\_20



#### **Comorbid conditions can :**



#### Psychiatric Comorbidity in Asthma Patients



# Depression

#### Psychological factors depression

-Estimates of the prevalence of depression in patients with asthma vary widely.

-In the general asthma population, the reported prevalence is 11– 18% for depression.

- Among patients with severe uncontrolled asthma 31% had symptoms of depression.



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# Risk factors associated with development of anxiety and depressive symptoms in asthma.

pression and ixiety in Patients

- 1. Increased physical disability
- 2. Poor quality of life
- 3. Poor adherence to treatment
- 4. Prenatal smoking exposure
- 5. Low perceived control of 1 asthma
- 6. Caucasian (white race)
- 7. Active smokers

- 8. Prednisone dependent
- 9. Severity of wheezing
- 10. Severity of respiratory impairment
- 11. Maladaptive behaviour
- 12. Female gender
- 13. Physical inactivity
- 14. Inadequate social support
- 15. Lower socio-economic status

# Asthma and Depression: It's Complicated

-Depression in asthma patients can cause a

worsening of respiratory symptoms and an increase of the disease exacerbations.

-Depression is also a risk factor for developing severe life-threatening asthma.

A. Chan et al .2015 - European Respiratory Society



# Asthma and Depression: It's Complicated

-A population study by Goldney et al examined the <u>relationship</u> between depression and a number of symptoms known to be related to <u>asthma severity</u>, and found that dyspnoea, wakening at night, and morning symptoms were particularly <u>strongly associated with depression</u>.

Joe K. Gerald- 2015



#### Psychiatric Comorbidity in Asthma Patients



# **Anxiety Disorders**

#### Anxiety

-Estimates of the prevalence of anxiety in patients with asthma vary widely.

-In the general asthma population, the reported prevalence is 11–37% for anxiety.

- Among patients with severe uncontrolled asthma, 81% had significant anxiety symptoms.



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# Anxiety

- -Asthma and anxiety comorbidity is associated
- with increased somatic complaints, perhaps explaining diagnoses of panic disorder and
- GAD (Farrell et al., 2011).
- -These children may experience increased chest tightness, wheezing, and coughing, which may mimic panic symptoms.



#### **Separation Anxiety**

-Asthma exacerbations are also often paired with anxiety and fear, and children may develop a learned aversion to environmental and situational triggers of asthma (e.g., animals, physical activity; Farrell et al., 2011).

- Furthermore, children with asthma may develop separation anxiety as they may fear what would happen to them if separated from a caregiver.



#### Panic disorder Is It Asthma or a Panic Attack?







#### **Panic disorder and Asthma**

**Box 9.5:** Panic Disorder: Four or more of the following symptoms (American Psychiatric Association)<sup>32</sup>

- 1. Palpitations, pounding heart, or accelerated heart rate
- 2. Sweating
- 3. Trembling or shaking
- 4. Sensations of shortness of breath or smothering
- 5. Feeling of choking
- 6. Chest pain or discomfort
- 7. Nausea or abdominal distress
- 8. Feeling dizzy, unsteady, lightheaded, or faint
- 9. Feelings of unreality (derealization) or being detached from oneself (depersonalization)
- 10. Fear of losing control or going crazy
- 11. Fear of dying
- 12. Numbness or tingling sensations (paresthesias)
- 13. Chills or hot flushes

# Panic disorder and Asthma

-Many of the manifestations in panic attack are similar to manifestations of acute attack of asthma.

-Approximately one asthma patient in ten has panic disorder whereas asthma and other chronic respiratory diseases are 3 times more common in patients with panic disorder than among those with other psychiatric disorders or general population.



# Similarities vs. differences

- Both asthma and panic attacks can cause breathing difficulties and a tight feeling in your chest.
- One key difference is that the constriction in your airways during an asthma attack can decrease oxygen intake, while hyperventilation in a panic attack can increase oxygen flow.
- Panic attacks also pose a wide range of symptoms beyond breathing difficulties. Wheezing and coughing are also symptoms usually <u>only associated</u> with asthma attacks.



Psychiatric Comorbidity in Asthma Patients

#### Posttraumatic stress disorder



# POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

# Post-asthma attack PTSD

- In a study, 20 percent of adolescents who had a life-threatening asthma episode was experiencing PTSD symptoms at a high enough level that they could be diagnosed with PTSD.
- The parents of adolescents who had a lifethreatening asthma episode were also showing signs of PTSD. Almost 30 percent of the parents of adolescents who had a life-threatening asthma episode met criteria for PTSD due to the asthma episode compared to only 2 percent of parents of adolescents without asthma.



#### PTSD Symptom Clusters

Intrusion	Avoidance	Cognition & Mood Changes	Arousal & Reactivity Changes
<ul> <li>Involuntary &amp; recurrent memories</li> <li>Traumatic nightmares</li> <li>Flashbacks</li> <li>Intense or prolonged distress after exposure to reminders</li> </ul>	Avoiding trauma-related • Thoughts • Feelings • People • Places • Conversations • Activities • Objects • Situations	<ul> <li>Can't recall key features of event</li> <li>Negative beliefs about self or world</li> <li>Distorted blame</li> <li>Persistent fear, horror, anger, guilt or shame</li> <li>Diminished interest in activities</li> <li>Feeling alienated</li> <li>Inability to feel positive emotions</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Irritable or aggressive</li> <li>Self-destructive</li> <li>Hypervigilance</li> <li>Exaggerated startle response</li> <li>Problems with concentration</li> <li>Sleep problems</li> </ul>

#### **Other mental health conditions**

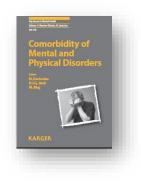
Panic disorder with or without agoraphobia, personality disorders, alexithymia, somatization, mood disorders, schizophrenia, eating disorders, substance use disorders, and general occurrence of any psychiatric disorder

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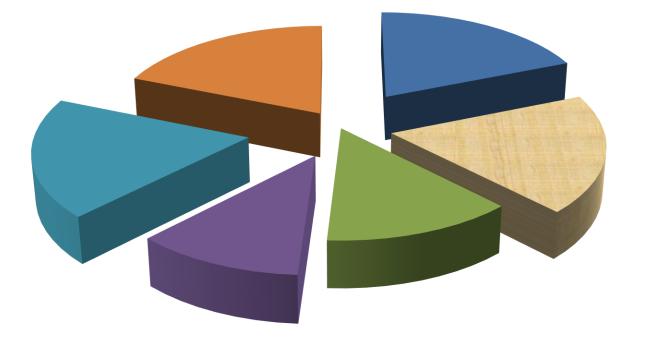
#### Addiction and Asthma

- Exacerbation of asthma symptoms can occur in heroin users , possibly associated with histamine release by the opioid.
- Bronchial and lung dysfunction in **cocaine users** include cough, black sputum, hemoptysis and chest pain . Some studies have reported an exacerbation of asthma symptoms in those who smoke crack cocaine and a higher incidence of out-of-hospital asthma deaths.





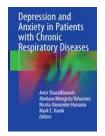
#### Psychiatric Comorbidity in Asthma Patients



- schizophrenia
- SAD 📃
- ADHD
- eating disorders
- bipolar disorder
- social phobia



#### Management of Anxiety and Depression in Asthma





# Indications for hospitalization

- Duration and severity of asthma symptoms
- Severity of airflow obstruction
- Course and severity of prior exacerbations
- Medication use and access to medications
- Adequacy of support and home conditions
- Presence of psychiatric illness



#### **Pulmonary Rehabilitation**

 Pulmonary rehabilitation (PR) has been shown to improve exercise capacity, quality of life and improve depressive and anxiety symptoms and is now considered cornerstone in the management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).



# Exercise therapy

Exercise therapy should be the first line of treatment for adult asthmatic patients with comorbid mild or moderate depressive and anxiety of symptoms. The exercise therapy should be tailored to individual's need in terms of repetition, intensity and duration



# Exercise therapy

-In a community-based rehabilitation including gymnasium, asthmatic patients should be encouraged to engage in a group or individual exercise programs to break the cycle of negative thoughts and hopelessness that feed into anxiety and Depression.



#### Counselling therapy and educational therapy

Counselling therapy and educational therapy should be considered for adults asthmatic patients with elevated symptoms of anxiety and depression. It is paramount as well to monitor asthmatic patients with comorbid anxiety and depressive symptoms in routine clinical visits or telephone contacts, e.g. using the HAD scale.



# Counselling therapy and educational therapy

If there is no improvement after the course of counselling therapy in depression or anxiety symptoms, further treatment can be considered to high intensity psychological interventions such as one-to-one CBT or group CBT. This depends on the patient's choice and provision of psychological therapy including CBT in local setting.



# **Cognitive Behavioural Therapy**

Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) is an action-oriented treatment in which both cognitive (e.g. identification and challenging of interpretation errors) and behavioural (e.g. planned exposure to avoided sensations and situations) strategies are used to interrupt the panic and/or anxiety cycle and facilitate more adaptive responses



#### **Cognitive Behavioural Therapy**

-For those asthmatic patients with high level of depressive and anxiety symptoms with suicidal ideation should be offered antidepressants drug therapy preferably selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors because of their low side effects.

- In addition, follow-up visits, at least every 4 weeks, especially at the early stages are paramount in order to monitor the patient's adherence to treatment and progress and adverse events.



#### Antidepressants

-If any depressive conditions are observed, it is necessary to treat them with an anti-depressant.

- But anti-depressants are known to have an anticholinergic action and, because of this action, patients may find it difficult to cough up sputa.



#### Antidepressants

 Thus, it is better to start with an anti-depressant that is less anti-cholinergic, such as those drugs that inhibit the selective reuptake of serotonin, while paying full attention to the adverse effects.



## Anticholinergic Effects

Strong anticholinergic effects : TCA (eg. amitriptyline, doxepin, imipramine).

Moderate anticholinergic effects :Duloxetine,Fluoxetine,Mirtazapine,Paroxetine Reboxetine , Venlafaxine

SSRI	citalopram 🛛 🖈	CELEXA
	escitalopram 🛠	CIPRALEX
	FLUoxetine	PROZAC
	fluvoxaMINE	LUVOX
	PARoxetine	PAXIL
	sertraline 🛛 🛠	ZOLOFT

#### Antidepressants

 The selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) citalopram and escitalopram have been studied for the treatment of depression in patients with asthma in randomized, double-blind trials (Brown et al. 2005, 2012).



### Antianxiety

Anti-anxiety drugs have a respiratory depression and a muscle-

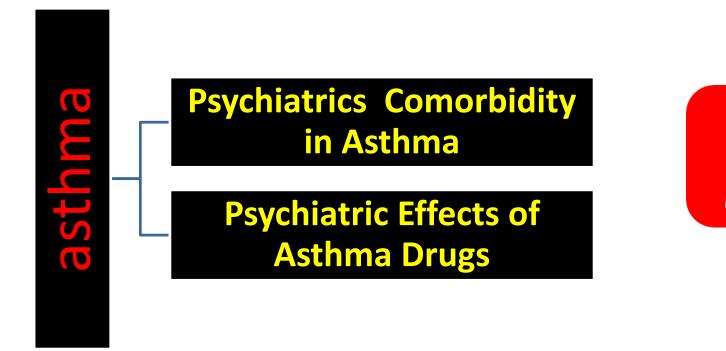
relaxing action, and it is better not to use them in cases of severe

attacks and when symptoms are complicated.

-If it is necessary to use one, an anti-anxiety drug of the nonbenzodiazepine type can be safely used, as this type of agent has less muscle relaxing and respiration-restricting action.

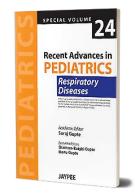








#### **Psychiatric Effects of Asthma Drugs**

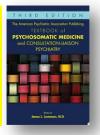






- Systemic corticosteroids are frequently prescribed for patients with pulmonary diseases.
- Long-term corticosteroid use is associated with side effects, such as suppression of the hypothalamicpituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis and immune system, glaucoma, cataracts, truncal obesity, thinning and bruising of the skin, and loss of bone mineral density.





- Corticosteroids are also associated with an increased risk of depression, mania, and mixed episodes (Judd et al. 2014).
- Acute, high-dose corticosteroid therapy appears to be more strongly associated with mania or hypomania, while chronic, lower-dose therapy may be more associated with depression.
- Psychotic symptoms, including delusions, hallucinations, and disorganized thought processes, also can occur.



- The most common neuropsychiatric effects of corticosteroids may be cognitive changes.
- The hippocampus, a brain region involved in <u>memory</u>, appears to be particularly sensitive to corticosteroid effects, with some studies showing volume decreases (Brown 2009; Brown et al. 2004).
- Diffuse cognitive changes, including delirium, are also reported during corticosteroid therapy (Fardet et al. 2012).



 Even inhaled corticosteroids can cause HPA axis suppression at higher doses, as well as psychiatric side effects.





### **Other medications**



- Theophylline and beta 2 -adrenergic agonists are sometimes associated with anxiety, insomnia, restlessness, agitation, and depression.
- Theophylline may even be associated with an increased risk of suicidal ideation (Favreau et al. 2012).
- Initial reports suggested that leukotriene inhibitors may cause psychiatric symptoms, such as <u>agitation</u>, <u>insomnia</u>, <u>anxiety</u>, <u>depression</u>, <u>and suicidal ideation</u>, although more recent analyses do not suggest a link with completed suicide.

(Gibbons and Mann 2011)



#### **Psychopharmacology in Pulmonary Disease**

 In general, pharmacological treatment of psychiatric disorders such as depression, anxiety, and psychosis in this population is <u>similar to that in other patient populations</u>.





#### **Benzodiazepines**

- Can significantly reduce the ventilatory response to hypoxia.
- -This may precipitate respiratory failure in a patient with <u>marginal respiratory reserve</u> and <u>contraindicates</u> their use in patients with <u>carbon dioxide retention</u>.
- -Benzodiazepines are not contraindicated for use in all patients with COPD and asthma.





#### **Benzodiazepines**

-In elderly patients, shorter-acting benzodiazepines with no active metabolites, such as lorazepam and oxazepam, are preferred.

-Buspirone does not adversely affect pulmonary function, its limitations are its potency and <u>delayed</u> <u>therapeutic effect.</u>

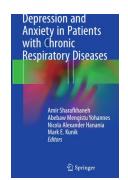
-Antipsychotics are <u>safer than benzodiazepines</u> for treating acute anxiety in COPD, but rarely have caused laryngeal dystonia.







The authors suggest benzodiazepines should be considered as the last resort , if there was no improvement using opioids and other non-pharmacological treatments to control breathlessness.





#### Antidepressants



-Little or no effect on respiratory function.

-Generally, SSRIs other than fluvoxamine have <u>few</u> drug interactions that are problematic in pulmonary patients.





### Antipsychotics

the Medically III

- Patients with asthma and COPD are particularly susceptible to cardiac arrhythmias (De Bruin et al. 2003).
- If antipsychotic medications are used, those most likely to cause QTc prolongation (ziprasidone, thioridazine) should be avoided, or the patients should be monitored.
- Abrupt discontinuation of antipsychotics with significant anticholinergic activity, such as clozapine, may cause cholinergic rebound, impairing the effectiveness of anticholinergic asthma medication (Szafrański and Gmurkowski 1999).



### **Antipsychotics**

- Inhaled Loxapine for the Management of Acute Agitation in Bipolar Disorder and Schizophrenia.
- Inhaled loxapine is contraindicated in patients with asthma (Teva 2013).
- In a study of inhaled loxapine in patients with asthma, 53% of subjects experienced symptomatic bronchospasm of mild or moderate severity.





Clinical Manual of Psychopharmacology

#### **Mood Stabilizers**

 Carbamazepine may cause cough, dyspnea, pulmonary infiltrates, and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.



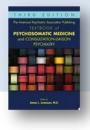


Clinical Manual of Psychopharmacology in the Medically III SECOND EDITION

#### Lithium



# -Most pulmonary medications do not affect lithium levels, but theophylline can lower lithium levels by 20% to 30%.





#### Cholinesterase inhibitors



donepezil (Aricept) tacrine (Cognex) rivastigmine (Exelon)galantamine (Reminyl) memantine/donepezil (Namzaric)

**Donepezil** :contraindicated in asthma.



-Should be prescribed cautiously in patients with asthma or COPD since <u>acetylcholin</u>e is a potent mediator of bronchoconstriction.

-Recommended drugs and drugs to avoid in dementia and Asthma/COPD : Beta-agonists Inhaled anticholinergics (have not been reported to affect cognition) ,Theophylline

#### Psychiatric side effects of common pulmonary drugs

#### TABLE 20–1. Psychiatric side effects of common pulmonary drugs

Anticholinergics	Auditory and visual hallucinations, anxiety, confusion, delirium, depersonalization, amnesia, paranoia	
Antileukotrienes	Anxiety	
Beta-agonists (selective)	Anxiety in susceptible patients	
Beta-agonists (nonselective)	Anxiety, psychosis	
Corticosteroids (inhaled)	None	
Corticosteroids (systemic)	Depression, mania	
Cromolyn	Irritability	
Cycloserine	Agoraphobia, anxiety, depression, psychosis	
Isoniazid	Amnesia, anxiety, depression, hallucinations, mania, psychosis	
Theophylline	Anxiety, delirium, insomnia, mutism, restlessness, tremor	

Source. Adapted from The Medical Letter 1998, 2002.



#### The End

- Comments
- Question and answer
- Thank you!

