

In this issue of Asia Pacific Allergy

Sang-Heon Cho

Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul National University College of Medicine, and Institute of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Seoul National University Medical Research Center, Seoul 110-799, Korea

We've just celebrated the first anniversary of Asia Pacific Allergy (*AP Allergy*), the official journal of the Asia Pacific Association of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology (APAAACI) in the last issue of April. *AP Allergy* is recently indexed by EMBase and is now indexed/ tracked/ covered by PubMed, PubMed Central, EMBase, CAB Abstracts, Global Health, CrossRef and Google Scholar databases.

This issue of *AP Allergy* features important issues on healthcare utilization and medical costs for childhood asthma in Taiwan [1], occupational asthma in Japan [2], recent progress of elucidating the mechanisms of drug hypersensitivity [3], and an aerobiological perspective in allergy and asthma [4] in review articles.

As the prevalence of asthma is increasing, the socioeconomic burden like healthcare utilization and medical cost is increasing worldwide. In Korea, recently, a nationwide survey and a survey from tertiary hospitals have reported the financial burden of asthma [5, 6]. The survey from the tertiary hospitals analyzed the financial burden according to the severity and control status [6]. In this issue, Wang et al. [1] have updated us with this topic in childhood asthma from Taiwan. He used the data from Taiwan National Health Insurance Research Database and addressed the importance of a government-sponsored disease management

program.

In the same issue, Dobashi [2] has reviewed on occupational asthma in Japan. Occupational asthma is one of the major occupational diseases in developing countries. This review provides an opportunity to review article the history and the current status of occupational asthma in Japan.

Drug hypersensitivity is increasing worldwide as the consumption of drug is increasing. Drug hypersensitivity became a hot topic in the field of allergy and clinical immunology. In the same issue, Hashizume has updated the mechanisms of drug hypersensitivity such as hapten hypothesis and the pi concept and provided his recent data [3].

Pollens are important allergens. Singh and Mathur [4] have updated this subject in the same issue. They provided an in-depth educational review article on various aerobiological parameters of environmental pollen from different parts of the world with a special emphasis on India.

Readers of this journal will also find original articles on the sensitization by house dust mite and the prediction of persistent wheeze in children between 8 to 14 years old from Singapore [7], lack of efficacy of a herbal preparation (RCM-102) for seasonal allergic rhinitis: a double blind, randomised, placebo-controlled trial from Australia [8], and the measurement of Hymenoptera

Correspondence: Sang-Heon Cho
Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul National University
College of Medicine, 103 Daehang-no, Jongno-gu, Seoul 110-799, Korea
Tel: +82-2-2072-2971
Fax: +82-2-764-3954
E-mail: shcho@plaza.snu.ac.kr

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution. Non-Commercial License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/>) which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Received: July 12, 2012

Copyright © 2012. Asia Pacific Association of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology.

venom specific IgE by the IMMULITE 3gAllergy in subjects with negative or positive results by ImmunoCAP [9] from Japan. Readers may have a new idea how to set up a clinical trial of herbal preparation like RCM-102 although it was found to be not an effective preparation for seasonal allergic rhinitis [8].

This issue includes an educational case report of Gianotti-Crosti syndrome: a case report of a pruritic acral exanthema in a child, which was initially misdiagnosed as atopic dermatitis [10]. Readers can learn about the difference between two diseases.

REFERENCES

1. Wang JY, Liu LF. Health care utilization and medical costs for childhood asthma in Taiwan: using Taiwan National Health Insurance Research Database. *Asia Pac Allergy* 2012;2:167-72.
2. Dobashi K. Occupational asthma in Japan. *Asia Pac Allergy* 2012;2:173-80.
3. Hashizume H. Recent progress of elucidating the mechanisms of drug hypersensitivity. *Asia Pac Allergy* 2012;2:203-9.
4. Singh AB, Mathur C. An aerobiological perspective in allergy and asthma. *Asia Pac Allergy* 2012;2:210-22.
5. Kim CY, Park HW, Ko SK, Chang SI, Moon HB, Kim YY, Cho SH. The financial burden of asthma: a nationwide comprehensive survey conducted in the republic of Korea. *Allergy Asthma Immunol Res* 2011;3:34-8.
6. Kim SH, Kim TW, Kwon JW, Kang HR, Lee YW, Kim TB, Kim SH, Park HW, Park SW, Chang YS, Cho YS, Park JW, Cho YJ, Yoon HJ, Cho SH, Choi BW, Moon HB, Min KU. Economic costs for adult asthmatics according to severity and control status in Korean tertiary hospitals. *J Asthma* 2012;49:303-9.
7. Llanora GV, Ming LJ, Wei LM, van Bever HP. House dust mite sensitization in toddlers predict persistent wheeze in children between eight to fourteen years old. *Asia Pac Allergy* 2012;2:181-6.
8. Lenon GB, Li CG, Da Costa C, Thien FC, Shen Y, Xue CC. Lack of efficacy of a herbal preparation (RCM-102) for seasonal allergic rhinitis: a double blind, randomised, placebo-controlled trial. *Asia Pac Allergy* 2012;2:187-94.
9. Watanabe M, Hirata H, Arima M, Hayashi Y, Chibana K, Yoshida N, Ikeno Y, Fukushima Y, Komura R, Okazaki K, Sugiyama K, Fukuda T. Measurement of Hymenoptera venom specific IgE by the IMMULITE 3gAllergy in subjects with negative or positive results by ImmunoCAP. *Asia Pac Allergy* 2012;2:195-202.
10. Llanora GV, Tay CM, van Bever HP. Gianotti-Crosti syndrome: case report of a pruritic acral exanthema in a child. *Asia Pac Allergy* 2012;2:223-6.