

Inhaled corticosteroids not linked to pneumonia in children

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(HealthDay)—Inhaled corticosteroids (ICS) do not appear to be

associated with the risk of pneumonia in children with asthma, according to a review published online Feb. 24 in *Pediatrics*.

Cristine Cazeiro, B.S.N., from the Federal University of Rio Grande in Brazil, and colleagues examined the correlation between ICS use and [risk](#) of pneumonia and other respiratory infections among [children](#) with asthma. Thirty-nine randomized trials that compared ICS with placebo for at least four weeks were selected, of which 31 trials with 11,615 patients contributed data to meta-analyses.

The researchers found that the incidence of pneumonia was 0.58 and 1.51 percent, respectively, in the ICS and placebo groups. Based on a meta-analysis of nine trials that revealed at least one pneumonia event, the risk of pneumonia was reduced in patients taking ICS (risk ratio, 0.65; 95 percent confidence interval [CI], 0.44 to 0.94). The meta-analysis including all 31 [trials](#) showed no significant between-group difference in the risk of pneumonia (risk difference, -0.1 percent; 95 percent CI, -0.3 to 0.2 percent) using risk difference as effect measure. ICS was not significantly associated with the risk of pharyngitis, otitis media, or sinusitis (risk ratios, 1.01 [95 percent CI, 0.87 to 1.18], 1.07 [95 percent CI, 0.83 to 1.37], and 0.89 [95 percent CI, 0.76 to 1.05]).

"Regular use of ICS may not increase the risk of [pneumonia](#) or other respiratory infections in children with asthma," the authors write.

One author disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

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