

Asthma rife among Hong Kong children

One in 10 children in Hong Kong suffers from asthma. The average age of these victims is three. A child has a higher risk of coming down with disease before reaching the age of six if his or her mother also suffers from it.

An updated Global Initiatives of Asthma (GINA) guideline is the latest way to deal with asthma. The guideline introduced a new systemic approach known as "Asthma Control Test" (ACT) to track the development of asthma. The test poses five questions to the doctor and his patient, and the answers can tell whether the patient is receiving the proper treatment.

There is also a new kind of asthma preventive treatment nowadays that can prevent the onset of asthma. When an individual's body is in its normal, healthy state, it has a minimal amount of antibody known as Immunoglobulin (IgE). When an allergen comes into contact with the body, the production of IgE will increase aggressively. The new treatment is carried out with an injection that inhibits IgE, enabling the the (*delete*) asthma to be contained more effectively. However, this therapy should be used only in severe cases and should be (*delete*) regarded as a supplement to the patient's regular treatment.