



A Multidisciplinary Approach to Patient Care

Kelly Bowers, Erin Byrd, Zachary Cherian, Joshua Hall, Joshua
Hughes, Katie Herzig, and Elizabeth Turnbull

Introduction to the Case

- 6-year-old female
- Presenting with chronic asthma exacerbations of unknown origin
- Recent move to new home
 - 3 hours round trip for medical visits
 - Concerns for new allergen exposures
- Familial Considerations
 - Mother pregnant with third child and on bedrest
 - Father on disability
 - Younger brother
- Patient's school has cited concerns regarding her excessive fatigue
- Many recent urgent care visits
- Many new medications added to patient's regimen

Goal: Control asthma symptoms and establish continuity of care

Care Team

- Social Worker
- Dietitian
- Dental Hygienist
- Dentist
- Occupational Therapist
- Physician Assistant
- Osteopathic Physician
- Allopathic Physician



Osteopathic, Allopathic, and PA Approach

Confirming the Diagnosis:

- Reviewing previous medical history of the patient and relating that history to the current condition to gain insight into the case.
- It was important to not overlook any alternative sources of the patient's presentation.
- Through interviewing the patient's parents, there were no obvious issues with utilizing a past diagnosis as the basis of treatment.

● Clinical Approach to Asthma:

- 1. **Diagnosis**
 - Spirometry can be utilized in PCP offices
 - Severity - Moderate Persistent Asthma
- 2. **Pharmacological Intervention**
 - Rescue Inhaler SABA - Albuterol
 - PRN
 - Inhaled Corticosteroid - Fluticasone
 - Daily to control sx and limit exacerbations
 - Persistent symptoms → LABA - Formoterol
 - Combination Therapy - Advair (Fluticasone propionate / Salmeterol)

Dental Hygiene and Dental Medicine Approach

- Throughout this case we tried to take a look at all the factors that could be contributing to the case. We didn't just look at it through the lens of the patient's oral cavity, We looked at the patient's whole situation.

Concerns that Need to be Addressed:

- Fluoridated water?
- Xerostomia
- Possible carious lesions

Possible Clinical Interventions:

- Supplemental fluoride, Sialogogues
- Have potential carious lesions addressed at a local dental clinic
- Dental Hygiene Clinics



Occupational Therapy/Social Work/Nutrition

Interested in Exploring:

- - Goals the family has for Charlotte & her care
 - Who are the social supports for client & family?
 - General roles and routines of each family member
 - How have/will roles, routines, habits of each family member be affected
 - Assist with potentially adapting roles/routines to support improved daily functioning
 - Determine what changes are realistic/accessible
 - What barriers might exist? What are some of the social determinants of health at play?
 - Impact of illness on Charlotte's school and social engagement, sleep, mental health, nutrition, etc.
 - Unable to keep food down, preferred soft foods only
 - Interrupted sleep patterns for Charlotte and the family
 - Food Insecurity
 - How can we help support Charlotte's functioning when symptoms are acutely present?
 - Ensuring she knows what supports exist

Lessons Learned

- Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) improve the quality of care for patients, far beyond the individual and separate care any one professional can provide
- Integrating care amongst various healthcare fields secures full and continuous support for the patient throughout all stages of diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up. This enhances patient experiences in a positive way
- MDT approaches ensure that healthcare providers develop critical, long-lasting, and meaningful relationships amongst one another, all while bolstering QI and CE efforts
- Ultimately, the comprehensive approach offered by MDTs allows not only for better treatment outcomes and patient satisfaction, but can guarantee treatment adherence and tolerance, reduces long-term side effects, and improves the quality of life for provider and patient alike