

For the Patient

The full report is titled “Impact of Socioeconomic Factors and House Cleaning on Asthma Control in Women with Asthma” by Umran Ozden Sertcelik, Ebru Damadoglu, Gul Karakaya, Ahmet Ugur Demir, Ali Fuat Kalyoncu. The report appears in the Mar-Apr 2022 issue of *Allergy Asthma Proceedings* (volume 43, pages 140–147).

For the Patient is provided to physicians so that the patients can better understand the language of modern medicine.

For the Patient is written by the editors (Bellanti, JA and Settignano, RA) and provided to practitioners so that patients can better understand the usefulness of new information resulting from medical research.

For the Patient is intended for informational purposes only. This educational synopsis is not meant as a substitute for medical advice. If you have questions regarding this material or are in need of medical advice, please contact your physician. Reproduction is limited to not-for-profit educational purposes only. All other reproductions must be approved by OceanSide Publications.

Impact of Socioeconomic Factors and House Cleaning on Asthma Control

Asthma is a chronic disorder of the airways, with a higher prevalence in women, characterized by reversible and recurrent bouts of obstruction, inflammation, and hyperreactivity of the airways. Although socioeconomic status has been linked to various health outcomes seen in several chronic diseases, with higher rates of morbidity and mortality observed in patients with lower socioeconomic status, inequities measured in the levels of education, income, and occupation may be particularly relevant to asthma due to additional factors that could adversely impact asthma outcomes. In a recent report, Ozden Sertcelik and co-workers from Hacettepe University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Chest Diseases, Ankara, Turkey, performed a study to evaluate the effect of socioeconomic factors and house cleaning on asthma control in women with asthma.

Why Did the Researchers Do This Particular Study?

The authors performed this study to evaluate if the use of home chemical cleaning products might contribute to a worsening of symptoms in female patients with asthma.

Who or What Was Studied?

A total of 204 adult women with asthma were included in a questionnaire-based, single-center, cross-sectional observational study to compare socioeconomic status measured by household size, monthly income, and educational and occupational status with degrees of asthma control.

How Was the Study Done?

Of the 204 adult female patients, asthma control ranged from 68.6% uncontrolled, to 14.7% partially controlled, and to 16.7% fully controlled. Partially or fully controlled asthma was better controlled in women with higher wealth scores and in those who cleaned their houses one to two times per week compared with those where cleaning was not conducted.

What Were the Limitations of the Study?

Limitations of this study included the small sample size, coming from a single center, and an inability to determine precise quantitative levels of exposures related to house-cleaning procedures.

What Are the Implications of the Study?

Having a higher household income was the major socioeconomic factor found to be associated with better asthma control. Although better asthma control was also associated with housecleaning one to two times per week, the authors did not feel that this finding was a causal association. □