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Children Who Receive Asthma Medication Can Develop Growth Problems

By [Isabella Diaz](#) on Oct 05, 2015 with [Comments 0](#)

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Children who are given asthma medications during the first two years of life are likely to be stunted later on, says a study.

Previous medical studies indicated that inhaled corticosteroids (ICS) represent the best medications for asthma-related affections in infants. "There has also been debate that obstruction under 1-2 years of age is not asthma and should never be treated with inhaled corticosteroids".

"For doctors that they should carefully think if a child really needs this medication or not", Dr Saari said. The experts feel that although this family of drugs will help lessen these conditions along the overall condition, they may have negative effects throughout the child's development in their later ages, the employment of the medicinal drugs in childhood can even result in quicker top in maturity.

"Our research shows a link between long-term treatment of inhaled corticosteroids during infancy and stunted growth at or after the age of two in otherwise healthy children", said Dr Saari. The research team found almost 3 cm decreased height among adults, as an impact of asthma medication.

In spite of the useful observation that researchers from the University of Eastern Finland have made, there are still many aspects that need to be clarified.

Inhaled corticosteroids are a form of medication used to prevent symptoms of asthma by preventing cells in the respiratory system from releasing certain symptom-causing substances.

One in every eleven children in the United Kingdom suffers from asthma, making it the most common childhood ailment in the country.

Jonathan Grigg, honorary medical adviser to the British Lung Foundation and professor of paediatric respiratory medicine at Queen Mary University London, said treating very young children who were wheezing was not easy. He went on to add that it has not been determined as to who responded to the steroid treatment in the study group.

The group will subsequent concentrate on assessing the impression of inhaled corticosteroids on development in older kids and observe them for longer time intervals. The impact was stronger on children who were given asthma medication for more than six months. Asthma is more than just inconvenient – it can be unsafe and even deadly.

"In response to our analysis, we may exclusively assess the influence of inhaled corticosteroids on progress in infancy till 2 to three years of age".