

INTRODUCING MEDHEALTH CHECK. TURN TO PAGE 3



V-CARE

your healthcare bulletin



Issue 56

1st August, 2013

ASTHMA

A sthma is a chronic lung disease. Currently, there is no cure, but it can be controlled.

Airway linings become inflamed; that is, they get swollen and secrete extra mucus. Airways narrow and breathing becomes difficult. Sometimes the narrowing gets better by itself; often medicine is needed to get the airways open again.

SYMPTOMS

- Shortness of breath,
- Wheezing,
- Tightness in the chest, and
- Cough lasting more than a week.

Not all people with asthma wheeze. For some, coughing may be the only symptom of asthma. Coughing often occurs during the night or after exercise. It's important to know that treatment can reverse asthma symptoms. And it's important to treat even mild symptoms of asthma.

ASTHMA EPISODE 'ATTACK'

The airways produce a thick mucus. The muscles around the airways tighten and make the airways narrower. These changes in the airways block the flow of air, making it hard to breathe. Some medicines relax the airways (bronchodilators) and others reduce (and even prevent) the swelling and excess mucus production (anti-inflammatories).

CAUSES

The complete cause of asthma is not yet known. Asthma is not caused by psychological factors such as having troubled relationships. It is a chronic lung disease which often occurs in those with close relatives who have asthma or allergies. People with asthma have airways that are super sensitive to certain things that do not bother other people. These are called triggers — when you are near or come in contact with them, they may set off an asthma episode. Common triggers for asthma episodes include the following:

- Flakes from skin, hair, feathers of warm-blooded pets
- House dust mites
- Pollens from grass and trees
- Molds (indoor and outdoor)
- Cigarette smoke; wood smoke; scented products; strong odors from fresh paint; automobile fumes; and air pollution
- Infections in the upper airway
- Exercise
- Strong emotions
- Changes in weather
- Backflow of acid up the esophagus, especially at night.
- Some medications (e.g. aspirin) and food additives

ASTHMA TYPES

Asthma is categorized by the frequency and severity of the symptoms before treatment.

Mild intermittent: Symptoms occur twice a week or less, and nighttime symptoms come twice a month or less. Symp-

toms are brief, lasting from a few hours to a few days.

Mild persistent: Symptoms occur more than twice a week but less than daily and night symptoms

Moderate persistent: Symptoms occur daily, with night symptoms more than twice a week. More severe episodes occur twice a week or more and may last for days.

Severe persistent: Frequent severe episodes are occurring with continual daytime and frequent night symptoms.

PREVENTION

To prevent asthma episodes it is important to work closely with your physician/clinician to:

- Develop daily self-management plan to reduce symptoms.
- Plan to avoid trigger contact.

CONTROL

You need to work out control plan with physician that includes:

- Treating symptoms early
- Taking action as symptom change
- Knowing when a health care professional's help is needed

TREATMENT

With proper treatment most people with asthma will be able to:

- Be active without symptoms
- Sleep through night without having symptoms.
- Prevent asthma episodes
- Avoid side effects from medicines.

"Dieting is the only game where you win when you lose!"

- Anonymous

Inside this issue:

PROTECTING YOUR BACK AT WORK

2



"When sitting either in a relaxed position, driving, or while at work, support your lower back..."



PROTECTING YOUR BACK AT WORK

ack pain is one of the most common medical problems in the United States. The cause is often poor posture and body mechanics in the workplace. A supervised program of back protection and exercise may be the key to alleviating and even preventing such problems. Correct posture and body mechanics play a vital role in preventing back pain because pressure on the discs and strain of the muscles, ligaments and back joints is aggravated by incorrect posture and body mechanics. At the same time, when your posture is good and you move your body correctly, you reduce the strain on your back.

SITTING DOWN ON THE JOB

Sitting is often the greatest cause of back pain. When sitting either in a relaxed position, driving, or while at work, support your lower back. Use a rolled towel, small pillow, or a specially designed seat support, available at medical supply stores. Remove this low back support every half hour for five minutes to give your lower back a change of position. Your head should be positioned so that your ear is in a line with your shoulder and your chin is parallel with the floor.

Avoid leaning to one side when you are sitting, and avoid overstuffed furniture as it does not offer adequate support.

When working at a desk, your chair should be pulled close to the desk. An office chair with short arm rests will allow this. Office chairs should also have adjustable height, back rests and seats. The back rest spring should be adjusted so that the back rest moves with you. A seat that tilts forward is a particularly useful feature.

Use a swivel chair to enable you to work without twisting your back. Place objects such as adding machines and computers as close to you as possible to minimize the amount of twisting and turning you need to do.

When you lean forward at your desk, bend forward at the hips instead of rounding your lower back. This will allow you to keep your back straight and in good alignment.

TALKING ON THE PHONE CAN BE A PAIN IN THE NECK

Holding the phone between your ear and shoulder is a common cause of neck pain. Use a clipboard to hold your papers down so that your hands are free. Special phone adapters also are available.

After sitting for a prolonged period, it is helpful to straighten your back to an upright position and, if possible, stand and walk for awhile.

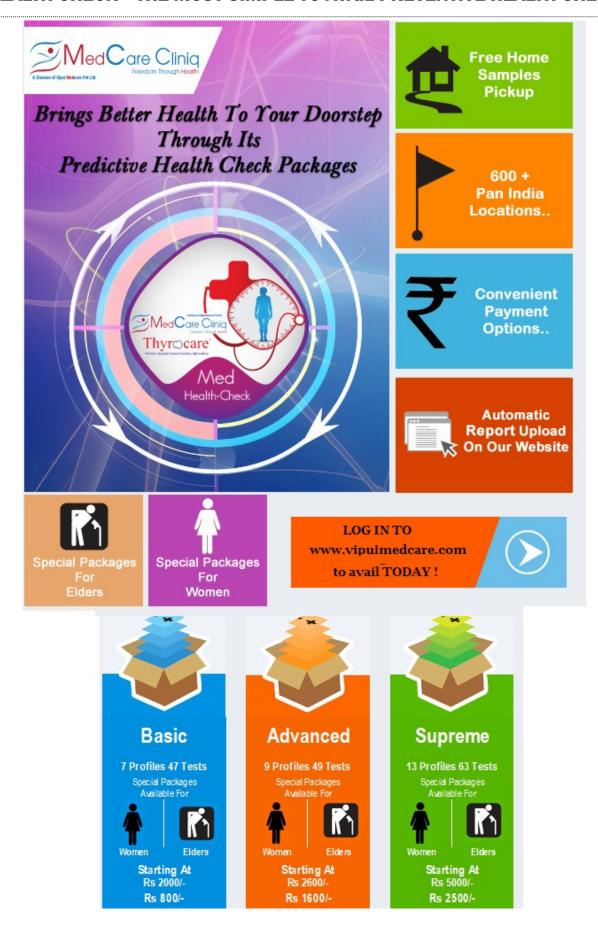
DON'T FORGET EXERCISE

Appropriate exercise, done regularly, will provide the strength and flexibility in the muscles of your legs and back that you need to help avoid excessive strain and possible injury. Some forms of exercise, such as yoga and tai chi, may help relieve or prevent back pain by increasing flexibility and reducing tension. These exercises should not be done, however, if they are uncomfortable or place a strain on the back. And don't neglect strength training; strong abdominal, back and leg muscles play a vital role in helping you maintain good posture and body mechanics.



Issue 56

MEDHEALTH CHECK—THE MOST SIMPLE TO AVAIL PREVENTIVE HEALTH CHECK UP



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CareAsia brings to you a wide range of elective surgical procedures to choose from at an affordable cost & uncompromised quality. We have in our network the best hospitals & surgeons across country who indulge in best surgical practices keeping the quality & patient safety at forefront. CareAsia would assist you to select a hospital in the preferred location & would arrange for your travel & stay throughout the treatment as selected. We would request you to go through our package details for making the best choice for yourself. We also provide second medical opinion services to enable you to make informed decisions. We also offer customized packages for treatment in India. Apart from the medical treatment we also offer various value add-ons like customized tourism options & visa & immigration assistance. To avail our services please sign up & create your profile.

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ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORD MANAGEMENT

The Electronic Medical Record Management system developed by CareAsia is best defined as **Your Virtual Health Manager**. Salient product features of EMRM are:

- 1. Unlimited Medical Record Storage of all types whether it be prescriptions, discharge summaries, digital scan images, imaging reports, or any pathological investigation report.
- 2. Digitization of Medical Records. The system picks out data from your scanned medical records & digitizes it so as to process your raw information to give you useful information.
- 3. Customized Reporting. All the reports submitted by users are processed & a summary/detailed report is generated as per the user's needs.
- 4. Intelligent Alerts. Once you upload the data, the system processes it using our algorithms & generates alerts, reminders, warnings, etc to assist your healthcare needs through a very user friendly interface. For example, the CareAsia EMRM system immediately updates your records to show the reports that are out of bounds & what are the parameters that are off limits or it could update the user about a lab report that might be very old & would recommend a retest for the same

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OUERIES?

Do write to us with feedback, queries, articles on health be it humor or educative&we will make sure they become a part of out Newsletter..

info@vipulmedcare.com



CORPORATE OFFICE

VIPUL MEDCARE PRIVATE LIMITED 534, UDYOG VIHAR, PHASE V GURGAON, HARYANA—122016

Phone: 555-555-5555 Fax: 555-555-5555

E-mail: someone@example.com

Your business tag line here.

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FOR QUERIES

HELPLINE NUMBERS

+91-124-4236301

EMAIL

info@vipulmedcare.com

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CareAsia intends to serve by providing value added services to its clients. It would serve patients beginning from the time the patient enquires from us to the time the patient gets his/her treatment performed & satisfactorily returns to the country of origin.

CareAsia has a strong presence within India (tie ups with major internationally accredited, top quality hospitals), which is one of the top destinations for medical tourism. Also, it has an international presence with offices in the Middle East & South East Asia to be a truly global organization in this industry.

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DELHI (Registered Office)

B-416 Ansal Chamber 1,8hikaji Cama Place, New Delhi,Pin Code:110 066 Contact Person: Mr. Chanden Prasad Tel: 011-46074578-81, 9313333270 Fax No:011-41659833

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Dr. Ambedkar Road
Dadar T.T., Dadar (East) Mumbai, Pin
Code: 400014
Contact Person: Mr. A.k. Sachdeva
Tel: 022-24157048-9, 02265951945, 9969137073
Fax No: 022-24160821

CHENNAI

New No.517, Old No.338, 2nd Floor, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600 035 Contact Person: Mr. K. Rajshekaran (9380037673) Tel: 044-49126666/24335717 Fax No: 044-24335716

KOLKATA

16/2, 2nd Floor Lord Sinha Road, Kolkata Pin Code: 700 071 Contact Person: Mr. Dr.Arup Banerjee Tel: 033-22820224, 9331825012 Fax No:033-22820224

COCHIN

Mariam Tower Door No36/3120-b-3, Kaloor Kadavantham Road, Kathrikadavu, Cochin-17 Contact Person: Mr. Rajesh R (9744497212) Tel: 0484-2102021, 2330079 Fax No: 0484-2330080

BANGALORE

154, 2nd Floor, Mallige Complex,KHB Colony, 5th Block, Kormangala, Banglore -5600950 Contact Person: Mr. NCS Rao Tel: 080-64512965, 64522965-6, Tele Fax No: 080-41464765

HYDERABAD

408, 4th Floor, Navkethan complex, Opp to Clock Tower., S D RD, Secunderabad - 500 003 Contact Person: Dr. Srikanth Tel: 040 - 27803247 Fax No: 39121957

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S-10, Shyam Nagar Ajmer Road, Jaipur Rajasthan Pin Code: 302 019 Contact Person: Mr. Uma Shankar Tel: 0141-5182035, 2297569-70,9829422303 Tele Fax No: 0141-2297335