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## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### Serum Immunoglobulin E and Vitamin D Levels in Asthma Patients in Enugu, Nigeria: Association with Asthma Control

*Niveaux D'immunoglobuline E Et De Vitamine D Sériques chez les Patients Asthmatiques d'Enugu, au Nigeria : Association Avec le Contrôle De L'asthme*

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#### ABSTRACT

**BACKGROUND:** Asthma symptoms are often mediated by changes in immune responses to allergens measured by the levels of immunoglobulin E (IgE) and non-protein regulators such as 25-hydroxycholecalciferol (25 (OH) vitamin D3). The relationship between serum levels of IgE, 25 (OH) Vitamin D3, and asthma control in asthma patients remains unclear.

**OBJECTIVE:** To measure the serum IgE and 25 (OH) vitamin D3 levels in asthma patients and determine their relationship with patient's asthma control.

**METHODS:** This was a cross-sectional study of children and adults with asthma aged 5 to 60 years old; and their controls seen in a tertiary hospital in Enugu, south eastern Nigeria from October 2018 to January 2019. Serum levels of IgE, and 25 (OH) vitamin D3 were determined by sandwich enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA); and compared between groups using the Student's *t*-tests. Association between IgE, 25 (OH) vitamin D3 levels, and asthma control were determined using the Chi-square.

**RESULTS:** Sixty-five (65) asthma patients and thirty-three (36) non-asthma controls were studied. Mean serum level of IgE ( $411.32 \pm 220.18$  IU/ml) was significantly raised in asthma patients compared to controls ( $163.51 \pm 186.36$  IU/ml);  $p=0.001$ . There was no significant difference in mean 25 (OH) vitamin D3 levels in asthma ( $68.55 \pm 25.91$  ng/ml) compared to controls ( $77.25 \pm 34.01$  ng/ml);  $p=0.153$ . No significant association was found between patient's asthma control status, and serum IgE and 25 (OH) vitamin D3 levels.

**CONCLUSION:** Asthma control status was not associated with Immunoglobulin E and 25 (OH) vitamin D3 levels in those studied. More robust study is required to evaluate the relationship between asthma control, IgE and vitamin D levels. **WAJM 2022; 39(7): 721–728.**

**Keywords:** 25 hydroxyl vitamin D3, Immunoglobulin E, Asthma control, Children.

#### RÉSUMÉ

**BACKGROUND:** Les symptômes de l'asthme sont souvent médiés par des changements des réponses immunitaires aux allergènes, mesurées par les taux d'immunoglobuline E (IgE) et de régulateurs non protéiques tels que le 25-hydroxycholecalciférol (25 (OH) vitamine D3). La relation entre les niveaux sériques d'IgE, de 25 (OH) vitamine D3 et le contrôle de l'asthme chez les patients asthmatiques n'est pas claire.

**OBJECTIF:** Mesurer les taux sériques d'IgE et de 25 (OH) vitamine D3 chez les patients asthmatiques et déterminer leur relation avec le contrôle de l'asthme chez les patients.

**MÉTHODES:** Il s'agit d'une étude transversale d'enfants et d'adultes asthmatiques âgés de 5 à 60 ans; ainsi que de leurs témoins vus dans un hôpital tertiaire d'Enugu, dans le sud-est du Nigeria, d'octobre 2018 à janvier 2019. Les taux sériques d'IgE et de 25 (OH) vitamine D3 ont été déterminés par dosage immuno-enzymatique en sandwich (ELISA); et comparés entre les groupes à l'aide des tests *t* de Student. L'association entre les niveaux d'IgE, de 25 (OH) vitamine D3 et le contrôle de l'asthme a été déterminée à l'aide du chi carré.

**RÉSULTATS:** Soixante-cinq (65) patients asthmatiques et trente-trois (36) témoins non asthmatiques ont été étudiés. Le taux sérique moyen d'IgE ( $411,32 \pm 220,18$  UI/ml) était significativement plus élevé chez les patients asthmatiques que chez les témoins ( $163,51 \pm 186,5$  UI/ml);  $p=0,001$ . Il n'y avait pas de différence significative dans les taux moyens de 25 (OH) vitamine D3 chez les asthmatiques ( $68,55 \pm 25,91$  ng/ml) par rapport aux témoins ( $77,25 \pm 34,01$  ng/ml);  $p=0,153$ . Aucune association significative n'a été trouvée entre le statut de contrôle de l'asthme du patient et les taux sériques d'IgE et de 25 (OH) vitamine D3.

**CONCLUSION:** Le contrôle de l'asthme n'était pas associé aux taux d'immunoglobulines E et de 25 (OH) vitamine D3 chez les personnes étudiées. Une étude plus solide est nécessaire pour évaluer la relation entre le contrôle de l'asthme, les taux d'IgE et de vitamine D. **WAJM 2022; 39(7): 721–728.**

**Mots clés:** 25 hydroxyl vitamine D3, Immunoglobuline E, Contrôle de l'asthme, Enfants, contrôle, Enfants.

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Abbreviations: ACTs: Asthma Control Tests; ELISA: Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay; GINA: Global Initiative for Asthma; IgE: Immunoglobulin E; Th: T-helper.