

# Asthma

## Clinician's Desk Reference

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**Description:**

As the series title implies each Clinician's Desk Reference will be a practical resource and a daily aid for physicians in the hospital setting and in primary care.

Asthma is one of the most important chronic disorders in the developed world. Evidence from around the world shows that the prevalence of asthma has increased considerably since 1975, and now affects around 7.2% of the world population (about 100 million individuals). In the UK asthma is now the most common chronic disease affecting all age groups with approximately 11% of the population being diagnosed as having asthma at some time in their lives.

Understanding of the basic mechanisms involved in the pathogenesis of asthma has improved dramatically over the past 20 years. Along with this increase in basic scientific knowledge, randomised clinical trials have produced evidence to guide clinicians in how to manage patients with asthma.

The book covers epidemiology, diagnosis and management, and takes a look at future developments. The authors highlight the under diagnosis of occupational asthma and emphasise the importance of effective patient education, particularly asthma action plans. There are ten clinical cases dealing with common diagnostic and management problems, frequently

**Contents:** 1. The size of the problem, 2. Scientific principles of asthma, 3. Making the diagnosis of asthma, 4. Inhaler devices, 5. Long term management of asthma in adults, 6. Management of acute asthma in adults, 7. Management of childhood asthma, 8. Occupational asthma, 9. Educating patients and clinicians, 10. Asthma in primary care, 11. The future, 12. Clinical cases, 13. Frequently asked questions by patients, Appendix 1: Resources for patients, Appendix 2: Resources for clinicians. Practice points. Index.

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133 colour illustrations  
27 tables  
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**Readership**

Pulmonologists in training and practice. Primary care physicians interested in respiratory disease. Hospital doctors working in emergency departments. Physiotherapists and nurses.

**Key Features:**

- Covers epidemiology, diagnosis and management of asthma in children and adults.
- Focus on occupational asthma.
- Chapter on asthma in primary care.
- Clinical cases.
- Resources for doctor and patient, plus frequently asked questions.