

EXPOSURE TO SECONDHAND SMOKE AND ASTHMA AMONG KOREAN ADULTS: RESULTS FROM THE KOREA NATIONAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION EXAMINATION SURVEY(KNHANES), 2007-2009

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Background: Although previous studies have suggested the exposure to secondhand smoke as an asthma risk factor, there is inconsistency between researches. The objective of this study was to evaluate whether an association of exposure to secondhand smoke with asthma exists and its relation is modified by gender.

Methods: The data of 17,240 adults aged 19 years and over retrieved from the Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (KNHANES IV). Information on outcome measures (ever asthma, current asthma and physician-diagnosed asthma) was obtained by self-reports using a standardized questionnaire. Participants were classified as being exposed to ETS at home if any household member smoked at home. Multiple logistic regression was used, adjusting for age, marital status, education, income, body mass index, smoking and physical activity

Results: 4.2% of the participants reported having ever-asthma, while the prevalence of current asthma was 2.5%. Exposure to secondhand smoke at home was associated with increased risks of current asthma (OR 1.38, 95% CI 1.05 to 1.81). Men exposed with secondhand smoke relative to unexposed had odds ratios of ever asthma of 1.79 (95% CI 1.05 to 1.81) and current asthma of 2.60 (95% CI 1.64 to 4.11). In addition, a diagnosis of asthma in men was associated with secondhand smoke exposure (OR 2.23, 95% CI, 1.42 to 3.52).

Conclusions: Among Korean adults, exposure to secondhand smoke was associated with asthma and this tendency was observed apparently in men.

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