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Abstract

Asthma is a chronic inflammatory disease of the airway. Corticosteroid is the drug of choice to control the inflammation, and prevent the development of airway hyper responsiveness and later airway remodeling. House dust immunotherapy has been shown to be effective in patients with asthma, and also in those who do not respond well to standard drug therapy. Whether immunotherapy is as effective as inhaled corticosteroid need to be studied. The objective of this study is to investigate the ability of house dust immunotherapy to improve clinical index in children with asthma, and to compare its efficacy with inhaled corticosteroid. We evaluated the beneficial effect of house dust immunotherapy in 24 asthmatic children based on the value of FEV1 reversibility before and after treatment, and also compared its efficacy to the inhaled corticosteroid. All the patients were sensitive to house dust allergen. Twenty-four children (group I) treated with house-dust immunotherapy subcutaneously, once a week for 14 weeks, and group II treated with inhaled budesonide 100-200 μg once daily. The result of Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test showed there was a significant improvement between FEV1 reversibility test before and after house-dust immunotherapy (p=0.0001). Analysis with t-test also revealed that the efficacy of house dust immunotherapy did not differ from inhaled budesonide (p=0.872). In conclusion house dust immunotherapy has been shown to be as effective as inhaled corticosteroid in improving clinical outcome in the term of FEV1-reversibility in the treatment of childhood asthma.

Keyword : Childhood, asthma, house, dust, immunotherapy, inhaled, corticosteroid, FEV1, reversibility, 

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