

ROLE OF INFECTION IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXACERBATION OF ASTHMA

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Summary. *Respiratory infections are associated with wheezing illnesses in all ages and may also impact the development and severity of asthma. Respiratory tract infections caused by viruses, Chlamydophila or Mycoplasma have been hypothesized to have significant roles in the pathogenesis of asthma. Progress is being made toward establishing the mechanisms by which these agents can cause acute wheezing and impact the pathophysiology of asthma.*

Key words: *asthma, bronchial obstruction, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), human rhinoviruses (HRVs), Chlamydophila pneumoniae, Mycoplasma pneumoniae.*