

O V I D*

Full Text

[Results Display](#) [Main Search Page](#) [Help](#) [LOGOFF](#)

[PayPerView Account](#) [View Cart](#)



The NEW ENGLAND
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED 1812 • ISSN 0028-4793 • WWW.NEJM.ORG

Owned, published, and © copyrighted, 2001, by the MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL
SOCIETY Volume 344(21), 24 May 2001, pp 1643-1644

[About this Journal](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

[Browse TOC](#)

[Find Citing Articles](#)

[Email Jumpstart](#)

[Save Article Text](#)

[Email Article Text](#)

[Print Preview](#)

Links

[Complete Reference](#)
[Catalogo Biblioteca ISS](#)

Outline

- REFERENCES

Recent History

Asthma and the Hygiene Hy...



[Previous Page](#)

Asthma and the Hygiene Hypothesis

[Correspondence]

Anderson, Wendy J.A.; Watson, Lorna

Antrim Hospital; Antrim BT41 2RL, Northern Ireland
(Anderson)

Lothian Health; Edinburgh EH8 6RE, Scotland (Watson)

To the Editor: With reference to the review article by Busse and Lemanske on asthma

(Feb. 1 issue), [1] we would like to raise the following points. Figure 4 fails to make it clear that several serious diseases, including type 1 diabetes, [2] are mediated by a type 1 helper-T-cell (Th1) response; for this reason, any immunotherapy aimed at manipulating the helper-T-cell response in favor of a Th1 response may have unwanted effects, such as the development of Th1-mediated diseases. Type 1 diabetes, like atopy, commonly presents early in life, is also rising in incidence in Europe, and is most common in first-born children and children whose families are well off. [3-5] Thus, the epidemiologic features of type 1 diabetes have much in common with those of atopic disease. This evidence contradicts the hypothesis that a change in the balance between Th1 and type 2 helper-T-cell responses is occurring in children.

Wendy J.A. Anderson, M.R.C.P.

Antrim Hospital; Antrim BT41 2RL, Northern Ireland

Lorna Watson, M.R.C.P.

Lothian Health; Edinburgh EH8 6RE, Scotland

REFERENCES

1. Busse WW, Lemanske RF Jr. Asthma. N Engl J Med 2001;344:350-62. [Catalogo Biblioteca ISS Full text \(pacchetto Ovid\) Bibliographic Links](#) [\[Context Link\]](#)
2. Liblau RS, Singer SM, McDevitt HO. Th1 and Th2 CD4+ T cells in the pathogenesis of organ-specific autoimmune diseases. Immunol Today 1995;16:34-8. [Catalogo Biblioteca ISS Bibliographic Links](#) [\[Context Link\]](#)
3. Patterson CC, Carson DJ, Hadden DR. Epidemiology of childhood IDDM in Northern Ireland 1989-1994: low incidence in areas with highest population density and most household crowding. Diabetologia 1996;39:1063-9. [\[Context Link\]](#)
4. Bingley PJ, Douek IF, Rogers CA, Gale EA. Influence of maternal age at delivery and birth order on risk of type 1 diabetes in childhood: prospective population based family study. BMJ 2000;321:420-4. [Catalogo Biblioteca ISS Full text \(pacchetto Ovid\) Bibliographic Links](#)

[\[Context Link\]](#)

5. Green A, Gale EA, Patterson CC. Incidence of childhood-onset insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus: the EURODIAB ACE Study. Lancet 1992;339:905-9. **Catalogo Biblioteca ISS**

Bibliographic Links [\[Context Link\]](#)

Accession Number: 00006024-200105240-00022

Copyright (c) 2000-2005 [Ovid Technologies, Inc.](#)

Version: rel10.2.0, SourceID 1.11354.1.53