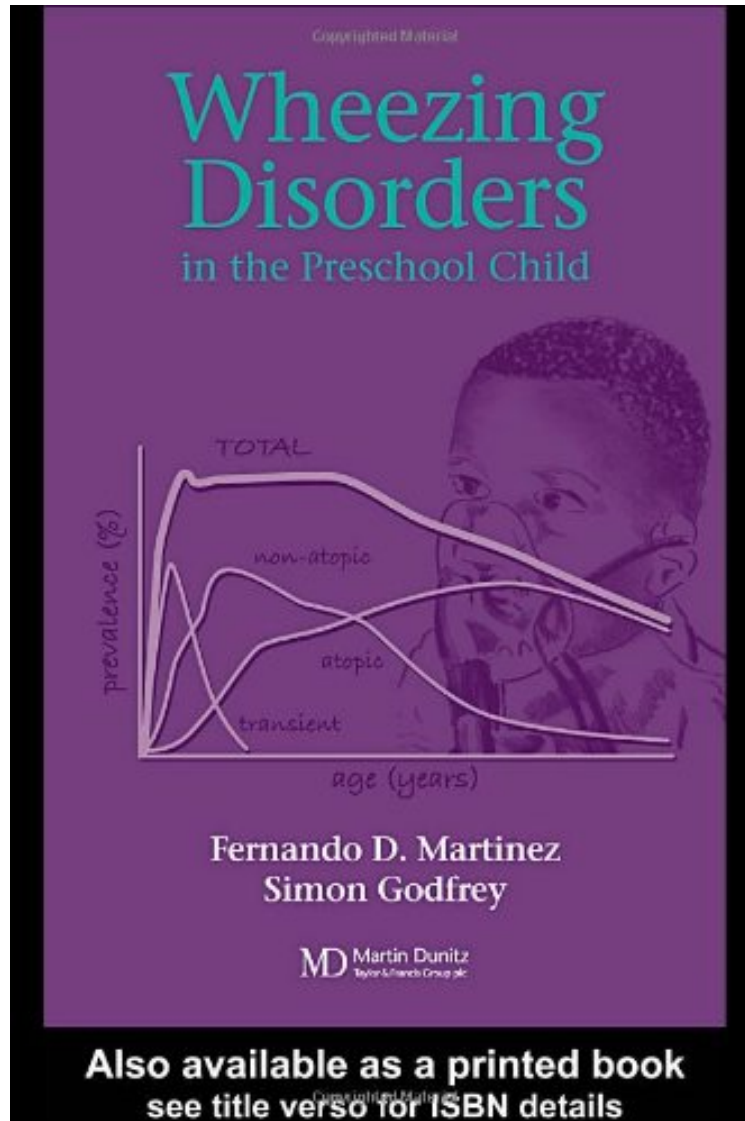


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Wheezing Disorders in the Pre-School Child: Pathogenesis and Management

Fernando D. Martinez, Simon Godfrey
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Fernando D. Martinez, Simon Godfrey : Wheezing Disorders in the Pre-School Child: Pathogenesis and Management before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wheezing Disorders in the Pre-School Child: Pathogenesis and Management:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent information, good presentation, may be a classic By Dan Mikesell Almost a must read for any pediatrician who manage any significant number of young children with asthma.

It seemed expensive for a small book but is guaranteed to change your management of this group of patients. Only a 4 star because I probably have a little adhd and couldn't stay on task. I had to reread many sections. Also contains basic science information that is more than a practicing physician may need.

The infant with persistent or recurrent wheeze during the first 2 years of life poses a particularly difficult diagnostic dilemma, which can be a source of considerable anxiety to both physicians and parents. Without neglecting basic science, *Wheezing Disorders in the Preschool Child* presents information in a logical and readable fashion that is particularly useful to the practicing clinicians. Simon Godfrey and Fernando Martinez, two internationally respected opinion leaders in the field of respiratory disorders in childhood, provide a comprehensive overview of the diagnosis and management of paediatric asthma. Focusing on practical issues, the authors expose the lack of existing data on the etiology and pathophysiology of the disease process, outline the optimal approach to diagnosis and management, and discuss the importance of early wheezing as a predictor of the future development of chronic respiratory symptoms in later life. They discuss a simple, logical, and safe approach to management based on trial and error, that ensures that patients do not continue to receive treatment that is ineffective. The book blends the latest information with practical experience.

From *The New England Journal of Medicine*: Wheezing, an extremely common symptom in young children, is a major diagnostic and therapeutic challenge for the pediatrician. The underlying causes are diverse, and knowledge about asthma in older children and adults cannot be extrapolated to young children who wheeze -- a fact that is perhaps the main justification for this book. Martinez and Godfrey are both experienced clinicians, well known for their original research on childhood asthma, and both are charismatic teachers. They have produced a compact and readable monograph that is meant for practicing clinicians. The content deals with the epidemiology of wheezing, the role of viral infections, immunologic background, clinical features, lung function, differential diagnosis, and management of wheezing in early childhood, topped off by an unexpected last chapter on "hot issues" for future research. I am pleased with the book. What makes it special? It is the first book that focuses entirely on wheezing in the preschool child. The authors did not, as they state in their preface, merely "collect and collate as much objective information as possible"; there is also a lot of original Martinez-and-Godfrey creativity to enjoy between the lines. They manage to avoid excessive jargon in discussing epidemiology, immunology, and genetics, and they explain the recent advances in these complex areas in a most attractive and concise way. The book provides a lot of opinion and experience and, as a special feature, has some very useful chapters that integrate clinical and recent experimental data in unifying theories. Although some of these theories may turn out to be wrong, the authors make it much easier for the clinician to get a grip on this complicated matter. Such integrative summaries are provided for the onset of wheezing disorders, interaction among genetic, immunologic, and environmental factors, and treatment. The treatment algorithms are worth looking at more closely. They take into account the age and background of the child as well as the frequency of attacks and the response to earlier treatment steps. The authors emphasize the use of short courses of systemic corticosteroids, a practice for which the evidence is sparse and controversial, whereas long-term administration of inhaled corticosteroids is delayed and recommended for defined, refractory cases, and rarely for infants. This is an uncommon approach to which some clinicians may be intuitively opposed, but its merit may be that unnecessary long-term treatment with an inhaled steroid, which is also not based on evidence in the case of preschool wheezers, can often be avoided. Any criticism? I found the small type -- one of the ways to reduce the size of the book -- to be too small. The quality of the pictures and color schemes of some graphics could have been improved. There are a few other excellent, recent books dealing with childhood asthma, but these do not focus on the preschool child. This new book thus nicely complements textbooks such as the more academic and bulky, multiauthored one on childhood asthma edited by Michael Silverman (*Childhood Asthma and Other Wheezing Disorders*. London: Arnold, 2002). *Wheezing Disorders in the Preschool Child* will be much appreciated by general pediatricians, fellows, and students, and also by academic experts who may disagree here and there but will admire the eloquent authority and scientific creativity of two remarkable authors. J.C. de Jongste, M.D., Ph.D. Copyright 2004 Massachusetts Medical Society. All rights reserved. The New England Journal of Medicine is a registered trademark of the MMS.