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Reliability and Validity of the Asthma Trigger Inventory Applied to a Pediatric Population

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▶ Abstract

Objective To test the reliability and validity of the Asthma Trigger Inventory (ATI) applied to a pediatric population. **Method** Children with asthma ($N = 272$, 56% male, age 7–17) and their primary caregivers answered together an asthma trigger inventory, ATI (Ritz, Steptoe, Bobb, Harris, & Edwards, 2006) developed for adults. Cronbach's α , principal component analysis (PCA), hierarchical regression, and correlations of the ATI subscales with skin prick tests, psychological questionnaires, and disease severity were used to assess the psychometric properties of the ATI. **Results** The ATI subscales demonstrated excellent reliability regardless of gender, race, socioeconomic status

(SES), or age. PCA confirmed and replicated the theoretical structure of the ATI. Hierarchical multiple regressions illuminated the association of ATI subscales with demographics and asthma history. Evidence in support of construct validity was found in associations between ratings of triggering and disease severity and asthma-related quality of life (PAQLQ). Criterion validity for allergy triggering was partially supported by correlations between ATI animal allergens subscale and the cat dander skin prick test, and construct validity for emotional triggering by associations between the emotional trigger subscale score and the anxiety (STAIC) and depression (CDI, CDI-P, CDRS-R, and CBCL-I) scores. **Conclusion** The ATI holds promise as a reliable, valid, and useful clinical and research tool to assess the type and degree of asthma triggering in a pediatric population (age 7–17) of varied gender, race, and SES.

Key words: emotions; pediatric asthma; stress; trigger.

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