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| **Insights into asthma care from multi-cultural consumers and health educators** |
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| **Introduction/Aim:** Lack of access to culture-specific asthma care contributes to poor asthma outcomes in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities. We have trialled a nurse-led asthma education program incorporating Bicultural Health Educators (BHE) to improve asthma outcomes in CALD communities in West Melbourne. This study aims to uncover unique asthma management challenges affecting these patients, and refine the current education program to better address their needs. A BHE for the purpose of this study is defined as an individual from the studied communities, who has high levels of health literacy and can represent their community and culture through lived experience.  **Methods:** 25 asthma patients were recruited from 3 piloted communities (Vietnamese, Sri Lankan, and Indian). They received two asthma education sessions, six weeks apart, from an Asthma Nurse Educator supported by a BHE. BHEs recorded participant reflections following the sessions, which were thematically analysed.  **Results:** Key themes included limited asthma knowledge with incorrect inhaler technique, inconsistent preventer use, lack of therapy escalation as per asthma action plans, and limited continuity of care with general practitioners. Some patients had poor educational literacy, with difficulty navigating the healthcare system and interpreting translated asthma education resources. Culturally-driven perceptions of asthma such as linking “difficulty breathing” with death, and social isolation stemming from displacement were additional barriers to care, with significant impacts on quality of life. Incorporating BHEs provided a sense of cultural security and empowerment with improved patient satisfaction.  **Conclusion:** Cultural perceptions and low health and educational literacy levels appear to significantly impact the approach to asthma management among the patients in this study. We anticipate that addressing these themes in the nurse-led asthma education program incorporating BHEs will translate to improved asthma outcomes.  **Grant Support:**  Asthma Australia Foundation and Western Health Chronic Disease Alliance.  Key words: Asthma, Culture, language, management |