

## EDITORIAL VIEW OF THIS ISSUE

Asthma remains a significant global health challenge, with its prevalence and burden continuing to rise, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. In Iraq, asthma has emerged as a key public health concern, with many adults suffering from inadequate asthma control. Uncontrolled asthma is associated with substantial morbidity, including frequent exacerbations, impaired lung function, diminished quality of life, and increased healthcare costs. Despite the availability of effective treatments, a large proportion of individuals with asthma remain poorly controlled, highlighting the need for improved management strategies.

Recent global studies underscore the prevalence of uncontrolled asthma. The Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) estimates that nearly 50% of individuals with asthma worldwide fail to achieve optimal control, leading to frequent emergency visits, hospitalisations, and significant impacts on daily life.<sup>[1]</sup> Similarly, a study in the United States reported that more than 40% of adults with asthma have suboptimal control, resulting in higher rates of exacerbations and emergency care utilisation.<sup>[2]</sup> In the Middle East, asthma control remains a significant issue, with studies indicating that approximately 60% of individuals in the region experience poorly controlled asthma, contributing to an increased burden on healthcare systems.<sup>[3]</sup>

In Iraq, the challenges of asthma control are exacerbated by a variety of factors, including limited access to medical resources, delayed diagnosis, and inadequate patient education. As healthcare systems continue to develop, addressing these barriers and prioritising strategies that improve asthma management is critical. A deeper understanding of asthma control in the adult population is essential for developing targeted interventions to enhance patient outcomes and reduce the burden of this chronic disease.

This journal issue explores the current status of uncontrolled asthma in students of intermediate schools in Baghdad, Iraq,<sup>[4]</sup> highlighting key findings from recent studies and providing insights into the factors contributing to poor asthma control in adults. We also compare these findings with international data to better understand the global context of asthma management. Through this, we aim to foster a broader conversation about improving asthma care in Iraq and other regions facing similar challenges.

We hope this issue will serve as a valuable resource for healthcare professionals, policymakers, and researchers working to improve asthma management and patient outcomes in Iraq and beyond.

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## REFERENCES

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