

Korean Asthma and Allergy Program

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Allergic diseases such as asthma, allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, food allergy, drug allergy, and anaphylaxis have been rapidly increased for recent 20-30 years in Korea. Asthma alone is the 5th important disease in Korea in terms of socioeconomic burden and even the number one disease in childhood. It was 1994 when the Korean Academy of Asthma, Allergy, and Clinical Immunology (KAAACI) published the first guideline on asthma management. Since then, the academy published updated and revised guideline regularly. However, there was a huge gap between the guideline and daily practice of general practitioner while allergy specialists could provide good quality practices. From patient's side, the awareness on allergic diseases was very low. From its beginning, KAAACI had been working hard to increase the awareness of allergic diseases and making educational materials but in small scale. In 2004, the important figures of the academy decided to establish the Korean Asthma Allergy Foundation (KAF) to increase the awareness on allergic diseases in public. KAF started to educate general practitioners and to give lectures for public in systematic way. KAF and KAAACI started to collaborate with the government on allergic diseases: national-wide surveys, cohort studies, educational materials written in easy language including leaflets, booklets, posters, storytelling books, and animations, TV promotions and video clips, a computerized guideline system called easy asthma management, atopy · asthma friendly schools, and importantly atopy · asthma education information centers. There are six atopy · asthma education information centers across the country: Gyeonggi, Seoul, Gyeongbuk, Busan, Gwangju, and Gwangwon. For example, Gyeonggi-Do Atopy · Asthma Education Information Center which was established in Oct. 2011 is managing 640 atopy · asthma friendly nurseries/ schools, providing various educational materials or tools for patients according to their age groups (from children to the elderly), asthma emergency kit, action plans, lectures for public, patients, their caregivers, school teachers, school nurses, 119 rescue teams, public health workers, nurses, pharmacists, medical students, and doctors, and working with 24 public health centers, teachers, school nurses, principals, 119 rescue teams, hospitals, officials, office of education, local governments, government of the province, Korean centers for disease control, the Ministry of Health and Welfare, allergy specialists, KAF, and KAAACI.