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The dangers for young children in a smoky environment: the paediatrician's perspective

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40% of children are exposed to second hand smoke in the home



Summary of the main health effects of second hand smoke on children

There is conclusive evidence that exposure to SHS causes:	There is substantial evidence that exposure to SHS causes:
Cot Death	

Summary of the main health effects of second hand smoke on children

- Cot Death
- It is difficult to unlink smoking during pregnancy and smoking after pregnancy but there is a 1.5 fold increase in deaths if just father smokes and mother does not smoke and they do not bedshare with their child
- If they bedshare and just father smokes the risk is 19 fold

Summary of the main health effects of second hand smoke on children

There is conclusive evidence that exposure to SHS causes:	There is substantial evidence that exposure to SHS causes:
Cot Death Ear Infections	

Summary of the main health effects of second hand smoke on children

- **Ear Infections**
 - Middle ear infections
 - Exposure to tobacco smoke in childhood causes acute and chronic middle ear disease
 - Children who live with one parent who smokes are 50% more likely to suffer with glue ear which can lead to permanent hearing loss

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There is conclusive evidence that exposure to SHS causes:	There is substantial evidence that exposure to SHS causes:
Cot Death Ear Infections Respiratory Infections	

Summary of the main health effects of second hand smoke on children

- **Respiratory infections**
- Maternal smoking and second hand smoke exposure are important causes of lower respiratory tract infections including croup, bronchiolitis, and pneumonia in infants and children.
- Young children whose parents smoke are nearly twice as likely to be admitted to hospital with serious lower respiratory tract infections.
- The risk is highest for children under two years.

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Cot Death Ear Infections Respiratory Infections Asthma attacks in those already affected	

Summary of the main health effects of second hand smoke on children

- **Asthma**

- Asthma is a major cause of chronic disease in children
- Rates are increasing
- Second hand smoke exacerbates symptoms of asthma
- There is strong evidence that second hand smoke is causally related with the onset of asthma

Summary of the main health effects of second hand smoke on children

There is conclusive evidence that exposure to SHS causes:	There is substantial evidence that exposure to SHS causes:
Cot Death Ear Infections Respiratory Infections Asthma attacks in those already affected Reduced Lung Function	

Summary of the main health effects of second hand smoke on children

- **Reduced lung function**
- Impaired lung function has been identified as a major risk factor for chronic obstructive airways disease (COPD) in adult life.
- Smoking in parents impairs lung function in infancy
- Exposure to second hand smoke reduces the growth rate of lungs
- There is some evidence that deficits developed in early life persist into adulthood

Summary of the main health effects of second hand smoke on children

There is conclusive evidence that exposure to SHS causes:	There is substantial evidence that exposure to SHS causes:
Cot Death Ear Infections Respiratory Infections Asthma attacks in those already affected Reduced Lung Function	Development of Asthma in those previously unaffected Lung cancer in adulthood

Summary of the main health effects of second hand smoke on children

- Lung cancer in adulthood
- Children exposed to second hand smoke are 3.5 times more likely to develop lung cancer as adults

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