

Specific Molds Associated With Asthma in Water-Damaged Homes.

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OBJECTIVE:: We sought to determine if specific molds were found in significantly higher concentrations in the water-damaged homes of asthmatic children compared with homes with no visible water damage. **METHODS::** The mold concentrations in the dust in asthmatic children's bedrooms in water-damaged homes (N = 60) and control homes (N = 22) were measured by mold-specific quantitative polymerase chain reaction. **RESULTS::** Two molds, *Scopulariopsis brevica-*

lis and *Trichoderma viride*, had significantly ($P < 0.05$) higher concentrations in asthmatics' homes compared with control homes and three other molds (*Penicillium crustosum* group, *Stachybotrys chartarum*, and *Wallemia sebi*) had P values <0.1 .

CONCLUSIONS:: A relative moldiness index was developed to predict the likely development of asthma in water-damaged homes in Cleveland.

PMID: 16902378
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