

Comments from the Department of Health on the Appraisal Consultation Document for Corticosteroids (for chronic asthma in adults and children aged 12 years and over)

We feel that there is an apparent lack of information regarding the effect of inhaled corticosteroids on growth in height of the over 12s, which may be particularly important at the time of normally accelerated pubertal growth. This is a key part of well being.

The side effect on growth is touched on in the appraisal consultation document. (3.4), but does not appear to be discussed any further.

It would be helpful to know whether there is any evidence (or lack of evidence) supporting the use of one inhaled steroid preparation over another, with respect to growth suppression.