

**Table 1 Background characteristics and respiratory parameters of the study subjects**

Variable	Healthy controls (n = 16)	Total asthma cases (n = 38)	Partially controlled asthma (n = 22)	Controlled asthma (n = 16)
Males/females (no.)	6/2	19/19	10/12	9/7
Mean (SD) age (years)	10.8 (2.5)	10.3 (1.9)	10.0 (2.1)	10.0 (1.9)
Mild/moderate asthma (no.)	n/a	21/17	12/10	9/7
Mean (SD) duration of symptoms <sup>a</sup> (months)	n/a	7 (6)	7 (3)	8 (1)
<b>Respiratory parameters</b>	<b>Mean (SD)</b>	<b>Mean (SD)</b>	<b>Mean (SD)</b>	<b>Mean (SD)</b>
FEV1 (mL)	90.1 (11.5)	75.6 (11.2) <sup>c</sup>	62.5 (13.5) <sup>c,d</sup>	88.8 (9.7)
PEF% (mL)	87.7 (4.6)	75.3 (10.7) <sup>c</sup>	63.8 (18.3) <sup>c,d</sup>	87.7 (4.6)
PEF25% (mL)	83.7 (22.4)	62.7 (9.6) <sup>c</sup>	51.8 (14.4) <sup>c,d</sup>	73.7 (7.1) <sup>b</sup>
PEF50% (mL)	118.1 (35.2)	62.6 (13.7) <sup>c</sup>	48.4 (13.9) <sup>c,d</sup>	76.9 (13.6) <sup>c</sup>
PEF75% (mL)	111.1 (23.1)	51.6 (13.7) <sup>c</sup>	37.1 (17.8) <sup>c,d</sup>	66.3 (9.1) <sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Duration of asthma symptoms before presentation.

<sup>b</sup>P < 0.05 versus healthy controls; <sup>c</sup>P < 0.001 versus healthy controls; <sup>d</sup>P < 0.001 versus controlled asthma cases (non-parametric statistics).

SD = standard deviation; n/a = not applicable; FEV1 = forced expiratory volume in 1 s; PEF% = peak expiratory flow.