

総合英語 読解問題演習

Read the passage and choose the best answer from among the four choices for each question.

ASTHMA

Breath is life, yet nearly 15 million people in the United States cannot take breathing for granted. They have asthma, a respiratory disease that is reaching near-epidemic proportions. Since the early 1980s the number of Americans with asthma has risen by two-thirds; half a million people are hospitalized with it each year. But recent research has turned up new hope for controlling the disease.

In the past, treatments for asthma targeted attacks in progress; sufferers inhaled a muscle relaxant to open blocked airways. Now most experts see asthma as a chronic inflammation, and they have shifted their tactics to prevent attacks from even starting. The key is steady, long-term use of anti-inflammatory steroids to suppress the underlying problem. This type of treatment makes the difference between living from one attack to the next and keeping asthma at a manageable distance.

The new approach also calls for a different relationship between patient and doctor: To monitor the treatment, both need to work together more closely than ever before. For the best possible care, patients should schedule regular checkups every one to six months. They should also bring a list of any side effects; tell their doctor about any changes in their routine or environment, even if they seem insignificant; and let the doctor know how satisfied they are with their treatment.

- (1) To what extent has the number of Americans with asthma changed since 1980?
- 1 A little 2 As expected 3 Hardly at all 4 Considerably
- (2) How has the treatment for asthma changed?
- 1 Doctors are using more aggressive therapy.
2 More patients are being treated in the hospital.
3 New drugs help prevent attacks from occurring.
4 New technology has made inhalers more effective.

- (3) What advice are patients given about their doctors?
- 1 See more than one specialist, if possible.
 - 2 Give doctors as much information as possible.
 - 3 Find a doctor who believes in long-term therapy.
 - 4 Consult only a doctor who uses the new treatment.
- (4) Where is this information most likely to be found?
- 1 In a magazine for a general audience
 - 2 In an advertisement for asthma inhalers
 - 3 In a medical journal for respiratory specialists
 - 4 In a brochure accompanying an asthma medication

