CHAPTER 8

STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS

8.1 STRENGTHS

- This is the first study to use leukotriene antagonists, sustained release theophylline and long acting muscarinic antagonists as various second-line treatment regimens in combination with an inhaled corticosteroid. Some may feel that our study design was contrived as addition of long acting muscarinic antagonist to inhaled corticosteroid is not included in GINA guideline. Whilst we acknowledge this, we feel there is a paucity of data to demonstrate the clinical benefit of tiotropium in asthma. The present study is an evidence based report to concede this.

- There is no validated questionnaire for knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) assessment of asthma in Tamil. We developed and validated the instrument.
8.2 LIMITATIONS

- The study was designed as an open labeled method and no blinding technique was adopted, because of hospital setting issues and clinical investigator’s wish.