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Early detection of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in family practice

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Introduction: In real practice Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases (COPD) is often diagnosed at a late stage as its clinical manifestations pass unnoticed and spirometry is almost not utilized.

Objective: To clarify the role of family physicians in early detection of COPD at the primary care level.

Methodology: The study was conducted during winter season 2015 in Al- Shohadaa family health center, Al- Shohadaa city, Menoufia governorate, Egypt. All patients \geq 40 years, smoking \geq 10 pack-years attending the center with respiratory symptoms were subjected after their consent to a spirometry to check for early COPD diagnosis.

Results: Based on spirometry only, 18 (9.4%) and 15 (7.8%) had GOLD I and \geq II COPD respectively however 159 out of 192 (82.8%) targeted patients did not have COPD. There was no significant difference in the type and number of respiratory symptoms between non-COPD and COPD patients.

Conclusion: As all primary health care centers did not have an access to spirometry, training of family physicians and implementation of spirometry in these centers as a simple gold standard test, that recommended in all guidelines to confirm COPD diagnosis is a mandatory challenge for early detection of the disease.

Biography

Mohammad Alkot has completed his PhD and Post-doctoral studies from Menoufia University School of Medicine. He is the Vice-director of Family Medicine department and Manshea University Hospital. He has published more than 25 papers in reputed journals.

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