ABI030 The management of asthma and copd patients in creece: current situation and perspective

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A National Health Care System finally came about in Greece in the early 1980s and there are now 200 Primary Health Care (PHC) centre functioning in rural areas. Today PHC physicians who staff the Health Centres and their rural health posts mainly serve patients, who ar kiving in rural areas. A thesis on the effectiveness of an educational intervention programme has been carried-out over the last few years a the result of the cooperation between the Clinic of Social and Family Medicine with the Lung and Thorax Clinic of the University Hospita Heraklion, Crete. The first results on the assessment of knowledge of bronchial asthma among PHC physicians who are serving the rura population of Crete have recently been published and this contribution reports and highlights some keys issues, including the following:

- Bronchial asthma and COPD are frequent health problems, which the primary care physicians meet, in rural Crete.
- There is a lack of specific training programmes for the primary care physicians on the management of asthma and COPD and also the guidelines that have been published are not widely used in daily practice
- There is a lack of qualified and educated nursing staff and specific educational and diagnostic equipment on COPD issues. In only a few Health Centres is a spirometer available.

In conclusion there is a great deal of room for quality improvement as concerning the management of asthma and COPD in the Gree primary care. Specific actions to improve the current situation were undertaken, and a group of GPs and academics was created in order t treview and disseminate practical guidelines (www.cgrg.gr). The current Health Care Reform that gives emphasis to the further developmen of the primary care and general practice is anticipated to invest time and resources to the development of continued medical educatio programmes and the implementation of quality improvement procedures.

ABI031: Guidelines for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: do they give answers to controversies of copd management (*Prim Care Respir* 2002 **11**(2) §5

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Backgroun eGeneral Practice/Family Medicine (GP/FM) has an important role in the management of chronic obstructive pulmonary diseas (COPD), which is receiving an increasing interest in primary care

Alims: A literature review was made with the aim of comparing the clinical practice guidelines for COPD with a relevance to GP/FM an exploring any potential sources of discrepancy among their recommendations

Method gWe searched the computerized database MEDLINE (PubMed) (from 1990 to 2001) using a combination of key words. Six leadin Journals (New England Journal of Medicine, Lancet, JAMA, BMJ, Thorax and Chest) were thoroughly searched manually. All clinica practice guidelines for COPD and research papers in relation to their dissemination or their implementation in General Practice, written i English, French or German were included in our review. Each paper was independently reviewed twice. The reviewers examined th guidelines and research papers for specific components regarding the management of COPD in GP.

Result e 24 articles fulfilled our review criteria. We found significant disagreement among clinical practice guidelines regarding th assessment of COPD. Furthermore, evidence based knowledge in GP, as this was reflected from the selected research papers, ofte contrasted with the recommendations. Key issues from these discrepancies are presented and discussed.

Conclusion s Although interest in the management of COPD in primary care is on the increase, evidence based clinical practice guideline for COPD in General Practice is still a neglected subject.

ABI032: Knowledge of pneumococcal resistance rates in Spain by family doctors Prim Care Respir 2002 11(2) §5

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Aii sTo know the knowledge of Spanish physicians related to pneumococcal resistance rates in an a country known to be one of the place with higher pneumococcal resistance rates and to know as well the choice of antibiotics in cases of suspected high penicillin-resistan pneumococcal pneumonia

Desig: A cross-sectional survey was set out in November during the Spanish Conference on Medicine Family held in Donosti (Basque). **Method** eAll the participants who filled up a questionnaire were given a present at the Aventis Pharma's stand at the Conference. They were pasked about the perception of resistance rates of Streptococcus pneumoniae towards penicillins and macrolides in Spain and whether the agreed on using macrolides and quinolones in cases of suspected high penicillin-resistant pneumococcal infections

Result .0843 family doctors filled up the questionnaire and 35 inquiries were dropped out because of illegibility or non responses. Out of 75 doctors who answered the question about the pneumococcal resistance towards penicillins, 312 stated to be greater than 30% (41.6) and onl 90 thought to be less than 15% (12%). However, 153 doctors stated that pneumococcal resistance to macrolides was greater than 30% (23% and 28 greater than 45% (4.2%). Respondents prefer the use of penicillins in patients with community-acquired pneumonia (344, 42.6%) bu were reluctant to prescribe them in case of pneumonias suspected to be caused by resistant pneumococci (82, 10.3%). In these cases famil doctors prefer the use of macrolides (251, 31.5%) and quinolones (321, 40.3%).

Conclusion dFamily doctors are aware of high resistance patterns but they think that higher pneumococcal resistance rates are reporte towards penicillins than to macrolides; however, 30% of the Spanish pneumococcal strains isolated are currently resistant to macrolides an only 5% are highly resistant to penicillins. They also think that penicillin still is the first antibiotic choice in pneumococcal infections unles a resistant pneumococcus is suspected. Surprisingly, in suspected penicillin-resistant pneumococcal pneumonias too many doctor recommend the prescribing of macrolides instead of quinolones.

Keyword gResistance, pneumococcus, antibiotic prescribin