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HALL A-25 Session 89 12:50-14:40

TP Thematic Poster Session : Methodological aspects of asthma and COPD epidemiology

P1017

Respiratory epidemiology home survey in a general population sample of central Italy: the IMCA2 project feasibility study

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Background: the European Commission plans to implement Health Interview & Examination Surveys (HES) in order to overcome the limitations of Health Interview Surveys (HIS).

Aim: the multicentric European project IMCA II (Indicators for Monitoring COPD and Asthma in the EU) aims at assessing the feasibility of performing interviews and objective measurements at home.

Methods: a general population sample living in Central Italy (Pisa) (n=170) was selected from a pre-existent database of an epidemiological survey performed in 1991-93. An information technology tool was developed by the coordinating centre (IMIM, Barcelona) to integrate: questionnaire design and filling, measurements carried out by sensors, management of fieldwork, data collection monitoring, on-line encrypt transmission to the central server. The questionnaire included information on socio-demographic characteristics, respiratory symptoms/diseases, asthma treatment, smoking habits. Spirometry, blood pressure, pulse-oximetry, weight and height were measured at home.

Results: 64% of selected subjects participated (n=108; 31.7 yrs \pm 19.6 SD; 47.2% males; BMI=22.2 \pm 4.9), 7% were untraceable and 29% refused. 11% of subjects were asthmatic and 17.6% were rhinitic; 17.6% had wheezing/whistling in the last year and 7.3% had airflow obstruction (FEV1/FVC<0.7).

Conclusions: IMCA2 has developed a promising tool for performing interviews and objective measurements at home. This tool is now being used in a pilot study on 8000 subjects which will determine prevalence rates of asthma and COPD in the elderly of Spain, Italy, Germany, Sweden.