COPD in Non-Smokers

Seyed Mohammad Seyedmehdi
Occupational Medicine Specialist
Masih Daneshvari Hospital
The WHO Global Burden of Disease Project estimated that COPD was the fifth leading cause of death worldwide in 2001 and will be the third leading cause by 2020.
The prevalence of physiologically defined chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in adults aged ≥40 yrs is approximately 9–10% 

(Eur Respir J 2006; 28: 523–532)
An estimated 25–45% of patients with COPD have never smoked.

The burden of non-smoking COPD is therefore much higher than previously believed.

*(Lancet 2009; 374: 733–43)*
Evidence suggests that rates of disease are generally underestimated.

PLATINO study:

- Among 5,315 subjects studied, 2278 were never smokers and 3036 were ever smokers.
- COPD was observed in 3.5% of never smokers and in 7.5% of ever smokers.
- Never smokers comprised 26% of all individuals with airflow obstruction.

*Archives of Medical Research 43 (2012) 159e165*
Other studies:

Report from the Obstructive Lung Disease in Northern Sweden (OLIN) studies:

- Both among subjects with airway obstruction and among subjects with GOLD stage II, the proportions of nonsmokers were 20%
On a global scale, the majority of chronic non-reversible airway obstruction occurs in current or former smokers.

But

Results from the Austrian BOLD study showed that:

Approximately every third subject with non-reversible airway obstruction has never smoked, yet still demonstrates a substantial burden of symptoms and impairment of quality of life.

*Respiratory Medicine (2008) 102, 1833e1838*
RISK FACTORS

• Active and passive smoking
  (The risk attributable to active smoking in COPD is thought to vary from 40% to 70% according to the country)

• Genetic factors
  (At present, only a severe deficit in a1-antitrypsin, responsible for the PiZZ phenotype, is a proven genetic causal factor)

• Occupational exposure
  (The risk attributable to occupational exposure in COPD has been estimated at 19%, and for nonsmokers at 31%)

• Air pollution
  (The role of air pollution in terms of risk factors is not well known)

  Its impact as an aggravating factor has been shown in patients with the most severe forms of COPD during peaks in air pollution)
RISK FACTORS

• Air pollution (Indoor)
  (Exposure to pollution inside the home, in particular in developing countries, is an important risk for COPD)

• Age
  (In the course of life, there is a physiological decline in respiratory function which begins around the age of 30–40 yrs)

• Sex
  (From an epidemiological point of view, males were classically more at risk of developing COPD in comparison with females because of their smoking habits
  Whether females are more at risk of developing COPD when they undertake similar smoking habits to their male counterparts is still under debate)
RISK FACTORS

• Infections

(Infections seem to play an important role in the occurrence of COPD some authors have suggested that the onset of COPD might be facilitated by a latent adenoviral infection)

• Bronchial hyper reactivity

(Whether bronchial hyper reactivity is a factor in the development of COPD is still under debate)

(Eur Respir Rev 2009; 18: 114, 213–221)
Tuberculosis

It is now also becoming clear that TB, like tobacco smoke, besides its known consequences of bronchiectasis and other pulmonary morbidity, is also a significant risk factor for the development of COPD

(Eur Respir J 2010; 35: 27–33)
Non-smoking risk factors associated with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Indoor air pollution
- Smoke from biomass fuel: plant residues (wood, charcoal, crops, twigs, dried grass) animal residues (dung)
- Smoke from coal

Occupational exposures
- Crop farming: grain dust, organic dust, inorganic dust
- Animal farming: organic dust, ammonia, hydrogen sulphide
- Dust exposures: coal mining, hard-rock mining, tunnelling, concrete manufacturing, construction, brick manufacturing, gold mining, iron and steel founding
- Chemical exposures: plastic, textile, rubber industries, leather manufacturing, manufacturing of food products
- Pollutant exposure: transportation and trucking, automotive repair
RISK FACTORS (Cont...)

Treated pulmonary tuberculosis

Lower-respiratory-tract infections during childhood

Chronic asthma

Outdoor air pollution
- Particulate matter (<10 μm or <2.5 μm diameter)
- Nitrogen dioxide
- Carbon monoxide

Poor socioeconomic status

Low educational attainment

Poor nutrition

(Lancet 2009; 374: 733–43)
analysis of international data showed that the prevalence of exposures predicted COPD prevalence: 0.8% increase in COPD prevalence per 10% increase in exposure prevalence.

By comparison, for every 10% increase in the proportion of the ever-smoking population, the prevalence of COPD GOLD stage II or above increased by 1.3%.

(Eur Respir J 2009; 33: 298–304)
Given the observed median population COPD prevalence of 3.4%, the model predicted that:

A 20% relative reduction in the disease burden (i.e. to a COPD prevalence of 2.7%) could be achieved by a 5.4% reduction in overall smoking rates or an 8.8% reduction in the prevalence of occupational exposures.

(Eur Respir J 2009; 33: 298–304)
HSE says...

- Work related COPD is a priority because of the human costs in terms of suffering, its effects on the quality of life and the financial costs due to working days lost and medical treatment.
  - Around 15% of COPD may be caused or made worse by dusts, fumes and irritating gases.
  - 4,000 COPD deaths every year may be related to work exposures.
  - 40% of COPD patients are below retirement age.
  - A quarter of those with COPD below retirement age are unable to work at all.
| درصد از کاراکتر
| بیماری‌های ریوی ناشی از محیط
| خطر
| تصمیم‌گیری بررسی علائم بالینی، آزمایشات، ABG گرافی سیستم اسپیرومتری و
| گرافی سیستم اسپیرومتری و
| ۱ /۵ ۵۰ ٪، لانفل، آزمایشات، ABG
| ۲ /۵ ۴۰ ٪، لانفل
| ۳ /۵ ۴۰ ٪، لانفل
| ۴ /۵ ۴۰ ٪، لانفل

| ضایعات انسدادی راهپیمایی هوایی
| (شامل آسم COPD و …)
| خطر
| CLASS I
| FEV₁ / FVC ≥ ۷۰، FVC ≥ ۸۰، FEV₁ ≥ ۸۰ ٪
| ۱ /۵ ۵۰ ٪، لانفل
| CLASS II
| FVC (/۵۵-۷۹)، FEV₁ (/۵۵-۷۹) FEV₁/FVC (/۵۵-۷۹)
| ۲ /۵ ۴۰ ٪، لانفل
| CLASS III
| FEV₁/FVC (/۴۱-۵۵)، FEV₁ (/۴۱-۵۵)
| ۳ /۵ ۳۰ ٪، لانفل
| CLASS IV
| FEV₁ < ۴۰ ٪
| ۴ /۵ ۲۰ ٪، لانفل

| مطالعه اسپیرومتری با علائم بالینی و دیگر آزمایشات پاراکلینیک در تفسیر یابید
| بالا باید همیشه مدقنر باشد.
# Pulmonary Dysfunction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>CLASS 0</th>
<th>CLASS 1</th>
<th>CLASS 2</th>
<th>CLASS 3</th>
<th>CLASS 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHOLE PERSON IMPAIRMENT RATING (%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2%-10%</td>
<td>11%-23%</td>
<td>24%-40%</td>
<td>45%-65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEVERITY GRADE (%)</td>
<td>2 4 6 8 10 (A B C D E) (Minimal)</td>
<td>11 14 17 20 23 (A B C D E) (Mild)</td>
<td>24 28 32 36 40 (A B C D E) (Moderate)</td>
<td>45 50 55 60 65 (A B C D E) (Severe)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISTORY</td>
<td>No current symptoms and/or intermittent Dyspnea that does not require treatment</td>
<td>Dyspnea controlled with intermittent or continuous treatment or intermittent, mild Dyspnea despite continuous treatment</td>
<td>Constant mild Dyspnea despite continuous treatment or intermittent, moderate Dyspnea despite continuous treatment</td>
<td>Constant moderate Dyspnea despite continuous treatment or intermittent, severe Dyspnea despite continuous treatment</td>
<td>Constant severe Dyspnea despite continuous treatment or intermittent, extreme Dyspnea despite continuous treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICAL FINDINGS</td>
<td>No current signs of disease</td>
<td>Physical findings not present with continuous treatment or intermittent, mild physical findings</td>
<td>Constant mild physical findings despite continuous treatment or intermittent, moderate findings</td>
<td>Constant moderate physical findings despite continuous treatment or intermittent, severe findings</td>
<td>Constant severe physical findings despite continuous treatment or intermittent, extreme findings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJECTIVE TESTS</td>
<td>FVC ≥80% of predicted</td>
<td>FVC between 70% and 79% of predicted or FEV1 = 60% and 69% of predicted</td>
<td>FVC between 60% and 69% of predicted or FEV1 between 64% and 75% of predicted</td>
<td>FVC between 51% and 59% of predicted or FEV1 between 45% and 54% of predicted</td>
<td>FVC between 50% and 45% of predicted or FEV1 below 45% of predicted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FVC</td>
<td>FEV1 = 80% of predicted and FEV1/FVC (%) lower limits of normal (≥75% of predicted)</td>
<td>DLco between 65% and 74% of predicted or DLco below 45% of predicted</td>
<td>DLco between 55% and 64% of predicted or DLco between 45% and 54% of predicted</td>
<td>DLco between 45% and 54% of predicted or DLco below 45% of predicted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEV1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Vo2 max &gt;25mL/(kg-min)</td>
<td>Vo2 max between 22 and 25 mL/(kg-min) or Vo2 max between 21 and 18 mL/(kg-min)</td>
<td>Vo2 max between 17 and 15 mL/(kg-min) or Vo2 max between 15 and 13 mL/(kg-min)</td>
<td>Vo2 max ≤15mL/(kg-min)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vo2 max</td>
<td></td>
<td>6.3–7.1 METs</td>
<td>5.1–6.0 METs</td>
<td>4.3–5.0 METs</td>
<td>&lt;4.3 METs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*FVC indicates forced vital capacity; FEV1, forced expiratory volume in the first second; DLco, diffusion capacity for carbon monoxide; Vo2 max, maximum oxygen consumption; and METs, metabolic equivalents (multiples of resting oxygen uptake).*
No clinical data proves that COPD can derive from occupational exposure.

The phenotype of patients with occupational exposure and those exposed to tobacco is similar.

(*Current Respiratory Medicine Reviews, 2012, 8, 436-440*)
scientific evidences prove that occupational exposure have a tobacco synergic effect on COPD patients increasing respiratory symptoms, emphysema, patients’ mortality due to respiratory problems, and also reducing the pulmonary function

(Current Respiratory Medicine Reviews, 2012, 8, 436-440)
In the diagnosis of COPD due to occupational exposure, two main factors should be taken into account. On the one hand, it is necessary to achieve the correct diagnosis of the disease and, on the other, a causal link should be established so as to obtain a detailed occupational history of the patient in which the following items need to be included:

i. Chronological list of jobs
ii. Title, and description of the activity
iii. Description of possible exposures in each job
iv. Duration of the exposure, use of protection, ventilation

(Current Respiratory Medicine Reviews, 2012, 8, 436-440)
Where necessary a hygienist should review the work place to determine the exposure risk
Agents and Professions Involved in Occupational COPD:

1) Mineral Dust

Coal
Silica and gold miner
Iron / Steel
Asbestos
Ceramic fibers
Construction workers
Cement

(Current Respiratory Medicine Reviews, 2012, 8, 436-440)
2) Biological Dust:

- Farmers and agricultural workers
- Workers in Swine operations
- Cotton
- Grain dust
- Wood

*(Current Respiratory Medicine Reviews, 2012, 8, 436-440)*
3) Gases-Fumes:

- Cadmium fume
- Welding fumes
- Painters

(Current Respiratory Medicine Reviews, 2012, 8, 436-440)
• Prevention is the best strategy to prevent the impact of the exposure on respiratory health of the workers. This may be carried out at three levels:

1) **Primary**: this is based on developing strategies that control and inform of the level of personal exposure and protection (administrative controls, technical controls, protection equipment). Control of smoking (as a principal aetiological agent of COPD) in the workplace must also be a priority
2) **Secondary**: to detect the disease earlier. Medical follow-up programs that include periodic questionnaires on symptoms, and spirometry that could detect workers with occupational exposure and at risk of developing COPD earlier.

3) **Tertiary**: treatment of diagnosed patients in accordance with clinical practice guidelines and avoid or reduce exposure in the place of work.

*(Current Respiratory Medicine Reviews, 2012, 8, 436-440)*
Indoor solid fuel

About 3 billion people worldwide are exposed to smoke from biomass fuel compared with 1.01 billion people who smoke tobacco.

About 50% of deaths from COPD in developing countries are attributable to biomass smoke, of which about 75% are of women.

(Lancet 2009; 374: 733–43)
Nearly 2 billion kg biomass are burnt everyday in developing countries alone, and in some developed and developing countries the decline in biomass use has slowed or even reversed, especially in poorer households.

(Lancet 2009; 374: 733–43)
COPD and chronic bronchitis risk of indoor air pollution from solid fuel: a systematic review and meta-analysis (Thorax 2010;65:221e228. doi:10.1136/thx.2009.124644):

- There were positive associations between the use of solid fuels and COPD (OR 2.80, 95% CI 1.85 to 4.0) and chronic bronchitis (OR 2.32, 95% CI 1.92 to 2.80)
- exposure to wood smoke while performing domestic work presents a greater risk of development of COPD and chronic bronchitis than other fuels
Burden of disease due to indoor air pollution from solid fuel use (WHO/SDE/PHE/07.01 rev):

Estimate that percentage of population using solid fuels in Iran is less than 5%:

And

COPD deaths attributable to solid fuel use (30 years) is 110
Outdoor air pollution

The association between high concentrations of outdoor air pollutants and COPD exacerbations and worsening of pre-existing COPD is supported by strong evidence, but the evidence to support an association with new cases of COPD is not yet available.
Socioeconomic status

- Poor socioeconomic status is a risk factor independently associated with COPD

- is likely to be indicative of other factors such as intrauterine growth retardation, poor nutrition (low intake of antioxidants) and housing conditions, childhood respiratory-tract infections, and exposure to tobacco smoke, biomass smoke and other indoor air pollutants, and occupational risks

(Lancet 2009; 374: 733–43)
• Socioeconomic status has been shown to have a significant correlation with lung function, even after adjustment for smoking status, occupational exposures, and ethnic origin.

(Lancet 2009; 374: 733–43)
Thanks for your attention