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Long-term survival in patients hospitalized for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: a prospective observational study in a community hospital

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Introduction

Mortality rate is high in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Our aim was to investigate long-term mortality and associated risk factors in COPD patients previously hospitalized for a COPD exacerbation.

Objectives

We would like to identify the risk factor for the mortality of high risk COPD patients

Methodology

A total of 90 patients from the COPD patient group were followed for years after the index hospitalization in 2009-2010. Patient were classified as high risk group regarding the poor lung function staging and/or > 2 AED/ hospital admissions. Information on long-term mortality was obtained from database in Hospital Authority.

Result

RESULTS: In total, 21 patients (23%) died during the follow up period, whereas 69 (77%) were still alive. In the cohort, we have fifty-seven male and twelve female with 48 subjects have GOLD staging 3, 15 have GLD stage 4. Primary cause of death was respiratory (n = 14), cardiovascular (n = 2), malignancy (n = 3), or others (n = 2). Mortality was related to older age, lower forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV1), body mass index (BMI) <20 kg/m(2). Higher mortality was associated with higher the hospital admissions and higher AED attendance. CONCLUSION: Almost a quarter of patients died within 4 years following an admission for COPD exacerbation. Increased mortality was associated with older age, lower lung function, low BMI, and these factors should be taken into account when making clinical decisions about patients who have been admitted to hospital for a COPD exacerbation.