

# ***Around-COPD***

## ***Verona (Italy), January 18 2017***

### ***Highlights***

## **Introduction**



Prof. Dal Negro chairman of the symposium, opened the congress by highlighting the burden of COPD as a chronic invalidating disease affecting more than 380 million people around the world. This symposium was a very important occasion for an update on COPD, its epidemiology, diagnosis and treatment. This meeting was attended by many physicians and opinion leaders in lung diseases, coming from all the world.

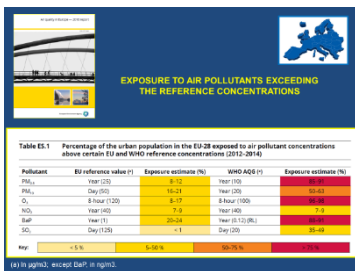
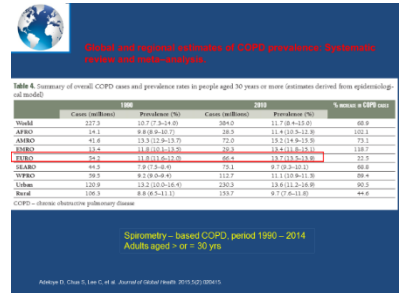
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# The epidemiological impact



The epidemiological impact of COPD was the topic discussed by Prof. Viegi in his lecture. The speaker, coming from Palermo (IT), went deeper in his talk by presenting a huge amount of data on the prevalence and on the mortality for COPD, Asthma and Respiratory Chronic Diseases. More in particular Prof. Viegi talked about prevalence, the natural history of chronic bronchitis, emphysema and asthma, by highlighting that since the beginning of this century, the prevalence of COPD raised of about 13%. Speaking about asthma, the speaker pointed out that in Europe 30 million children and adults under 45 years old are affected, and despite the increasing use of medications, the disease's control remains poor. Prof. Viegi highlighted that the cost for COPD and its exacerbations is increased from 2.000 to 3.000 million of euro since the beginning of this century in Italy. In the last part of his lecture, the speaker talked about the risk factors for COPD, like smoking, passive smoking, outdoor and indoor air pollution, occupational exposure and climate changes. Finally, Prof. Viegi spoke about an Italian project, the so called "Global alliance against chronic respiratory disease in Italy".



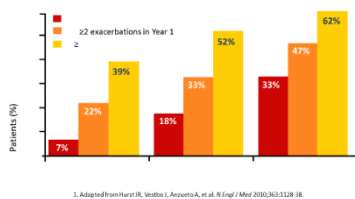
- What are the main occupational risk factors for COPD?
- What's about the global Burden of COPD?
- What is the prevalence of chronic bronchitis and emphysema in Italy?
- What's about the proportional Venn Diagram of Obstructive Lung Disease in the Italian general population?
- What are the current estimates of the global burden of asthma in all the world?
- What is the current trend in hospital admission for respiratory diseases in Italy?
- What's about the mortality trend in Europe and in all the World for COPD?
- What are the future projections for Asthma?

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# The unmet needs of COPD patients

Distribution of exacerbations in ECLIPSE

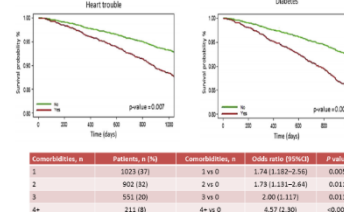


L. Adgey from Harcourt, Vestito L, Accetta A, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2002;346:1128-38.

Prof. Calverly pointed out that COPD patients have symptoms at all the stages of the disease, like dyspnoea, cough, chest tightness, sputum and wheeze. In the main part of his lecture, the speaker presented very interesting data on exacerbations and co-morbidities and their impact on the disease progression, hospitalisation and mortality rate. Prof. Calverly spoke also about life expectancy, by presenting data given by the ECLIPSE study and other registries. Finally, the speaker talked about treatment and more in particular about bronchodilators and their effects on the exacerbations and the correlation between ICS/LABA treatment and the mortality rate in COPD patients.

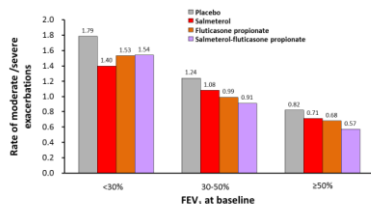
Prof. Calverly from Liverpool (UK), spoke about the unmet needs of patients affected by COPD, by presenting very interesting data on COPD evolution and, more in particular on symptoms, exacerbations, lung functions decline, mortality rate and treatment. The speaker went deeper in his lecture, talking about diagnosis and assessment and the need for a better approach through the application of the new GOLD rules. Speaking about symptoms,

COMORBIDITY AND SURVIVAL



Statistical curves used a Cox proportional hazard model, adjusting the data for age, gender and smoking pack year history. Comorbidity effect on mortality in COPD is modified using a logistic regression model adjusting for age, gender and smoking. Miller J et al. *Respir Med*. 2013 Sep;107(9):1376-84

EXACERBATION REDUCTION: LABA+ICS : EXACERBATION RATE BY GOLD STAGE



Jenkins CR et al. *Respir Res* 2005;5:59

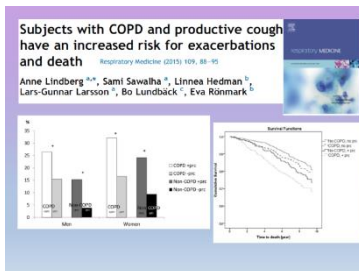
about treatment and more in particular about bronchodilators and their effects on the exacerbations and the correlation between ICS/LABA treatment and the mortality rate in COPD patients. Prof. Calverly, spoke also about some problems linked with treatment, like poor adherence and side effects. In conclusion, the speaker pointed out that at present, physicians cannot cure COPD, because there is still a significant symptom burden which translates into impaired daily activity.

- What's about hospitalised exacerbations and mortality?
- What are the main comorbidities at diagnosis in a primary care setting?
- What's about the correlation between comorbidities and survival?
- What is the UK percentage of deaths caused by COPD in 2012?
- What's about Tiotropium and exacerbations?
- What's about LABA+ICS and exacerbation rate by GOLD stage?
- What are the main problems linked with the treatment from the speaker point of view?

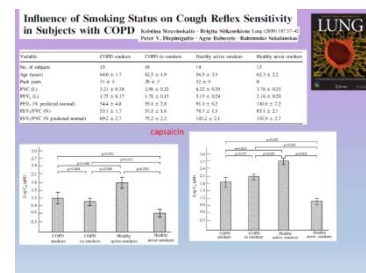
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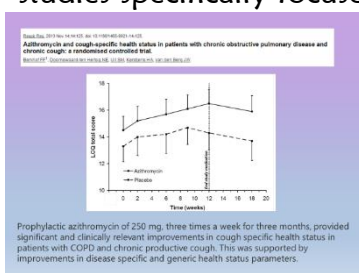
# Cough in COPD



Cough in COPD, was the topic Prof. Fontana spoke about in his talk. The speaker coming from Florence (IT), at the beginning of his presentation, spoke about the importance of chronic cough in COPD as a clinical COPD phenotype. More in particular, Prof. Fontana talked about the mechanisms that may contribute to coughing in COPD patients, like airway inflammations, the excess of airway mucus, the co-morbidities that cause cough, the continued inhalation of cigarette smoke and finally about the heightened cough reflex sensitivity.



In the second part of his lecture Prof. Fontana presented very interesting data on diagnosis and more in particular on the clinical assessment of cough in COPD patients, by highlighting that there are a limited number of clinical studies specifically focused on cough in COPD, mainly for the difficulty to measure the severity of cough.

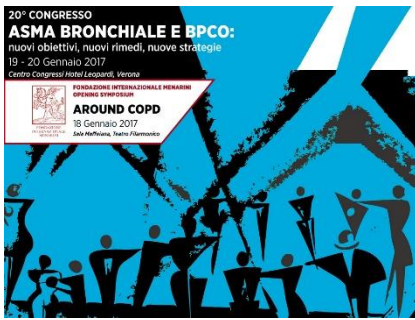


Finally, the speaker talked about the treatment of cough in COPD patients, by pointing out the lack of clear and specific guidance regarding management of cough in COPD patients, in the current cough guidelines. In conclusion, Prof. Fontana highlighted that despite cough is an important symptom in patients affected by COPD, current treatments, including cough suppressants, are clearly unsatisfactory in improving cough.

- What are the main mechanisms leading to the onset of cough in patients affected by COPD?
- What's about the effect of cigarette smoking on the cough reflex in COPD?
- What's about the effect of azithromycin on the chronic cough in patients affected by COPD?
- What do guidelines say about chronic cough in COPD?
- What are the main strategies for the clinical assessment of cough in COPD patients?
- What's about Capsaicin responsiveness in COPD patients affected by cough?
- What is the cough threshold in patients affected by COPD?

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These are only some of the topics addressed in the congress's sections

For a deeper knowledge on these topics, please visit the International Menarini Foundation web site where You can find all the speeches in their full version.

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