AB206 Abstracts

The Spectrum and Prevalence of Reactions to Marijuana in a Colorado Allergy Practice

William S. Silvers, MD, FAAAAI. Allergy Asthma Colorado PC, Englewood, CO.

RATIONALE: Since the legalization of medical marijuana (MJ) and recreational marijuana in certain states in the US, an increasing number of allergic patients are presenting due to MJ exposure. The majority have significant exposure in the grow industry or heavy consumers, indicating that cannabis sativa is a mild allergen. We surveyed our allergy practice patients’ experience with MJ and reactions to it.

METHODS: We composed a voluntary questionnaire addressing our patients’ exposure to MJ, active or passive, and types of reactions.

RESULTS: 134 Questionnaires were handed out, and 132 patients answered, 2 declined. 28 of 132 total patients experienced symptoms (21%). Patients who had never smoked MJ (52%), of these 8 had symptoms from passive exposure (12%). Patients who had smoked in the past 47 (35%), of these 12 (26%) had experienced symptoms. Patients who actively smoke MJ (13%), of which 8 (50%) experienced symptoms. Symptoms ranged from respiratory, followed by ocular, then skin.

CONCLUSIONS: Although cannabis sativa may be a mild allergen for most, increasing exposure and especially active use result in increased adverse effects in the allergic population.

Prevalence of Symptoms of Asthma and Rhinitis in Adult General Population of Rosario, Argentina

Ledit RF, Arduosso 1, Cecilia Torrent2, Rafael Zaugg Nadur2, Maricel Ripo1, and Jorge L. Molinas, MD3, 1Rosario School of Medicine, National University of Rosario, Rosario, Argentina, Rosario, Argentina, 2University of the Center Educational Latino Americano, Rosario, Argentina, Rosario, Argentina.

RATIONALE: The increase of allergic diseases in the world is essential to develop a deeper understanding of the epidemiology of asthma and allergic rhinitis in general population samples knowledge. Our objective was to assess prevalence of symptoms of asthma and allergic rhinitis in adult population of the city of Rosario.

METHODS: A descriptive cross-sectional study with 1053 individuals living in Rosario, Santa Fe, of both sexes (52.5% women), aged between 18 and 88 years (x = 41.50 ± 17.01), who attended at six municipal districts and randomly responded ISAAC questionnaire validated for asthma and rhinitis, during November and December 2011 were included.

RESULTS: 8.4% of individuals reported having experienced symptoms of asthma in the past year and 15.3% of the sample reported symptoms of rhinitis ever in life. The prevalence of nasal symptoms during the last year was 31.2% and at some point in the life of 36.4%. For none of the two cases and significant gender differences regarding age found. A significant degree of comorbidity between symptoms of asthma and rhinitis was found during the last year (OR = 3.79; 95% CI: 2.35 to 6.11) and once in life (OR = 3.40; 95% CI: 2.36 to 4.90).

CONCLUSIONS: These data of general adult population of Rosario show a high rate of nasal and bronchial symptoms of allergic etiology. The medical community should be aware of this alarming epidemiological situation in allergic respiratory diseases.