

651 Uncontrolled Asthma in Specialized Centers in Latin America: Findings from the Asthma Control in Latin America (ASLA) Study



Hugo E. Neffen¹, Edith Vallejo-Perez², Marco Chahuan³, Eduardo Giugno⁴, Dante D. Hernández-Colín⁵, Fabio Bolívar⁶, Gur Levy⁷, Claudia Vieira⁷, Felipe Moraes⁷, Karynna P. Viana⁷, and Cláudia R. Soares⁷; ¹Centro de Alergia e Inmunología y Enfermedades Respiratorias, Santa Fe, Argentina, ²Unidad de Investigación Respiratoria de Michoacan, Morelia, Mexico, ³Hospital San Borja Arriaran, Santiago, Chile, ⁴Centro de Investigación Clínica Belgrano, Buenos Aires, Argentina, ⁵Instituto Jalisciense de Investigación Clínica, Guadalajara, Mexico, ⁶Instituto Neumológico del Oriente, Santander, Colombia, ⁷GSK, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

RATIONALE: There is no multi-country study in specialized centers investigating uncontrolled asthma and associated factors in Latin America.

METHODS: Cross-sectional study, including subjects ≥ 12 years with a diagnosis of asthma and prescription for asthma medication at 18 public/private outpatient specialised centres in Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Mexico. The Asthma Control Test (ACT) was used to classify the patients as controlled (ACT: 20-25) or uncontrolled (ACT ≤ 19). Multivariate logistic regression was applied to assess the association of uncontrolled asthma with clinical/demographic variables and univariate logistic regression to test the association between hospital admission/exacerbation/emergency visit and uncontrolled asthma.

RESULTS: 594 patients were included. The frequency of uncontrolled asthma was 56.6% (95%CI 52.5-60.5%). In the multivariate analysis, the uncontrolled patients were more likely to be women (62.3% vs 41.4%, ORadj: 1.8, $p < 0.001$), non-white (68.3% vs 45.2%, ORadj: 2.01, $p < 0.001$), with monthly family income lower than \$668.5 (67.8% vs 45.6%, ORadj: 1.71, $p < 0.05$) and obese (70.1% vs 29.9%, ORadj: 1.63, $p = 0.057$). The patients with uncontrolled asthma were more likely to have severe/moderate asthma exacerbations (28.0% vs 10.9%, ORcrude: 3.31, $p < 0.001$), hospital admissions (6.8% vs 3.1%, ORcrude: 2.30, $p = 0.047$) and emergency visits (34.5% vs 15.9%, ORcrude: 2.79, $p < 0.001$) due to asthma.

CONCLUSIONS: Even in specialised services, more than half of the patients were classified as uncontrolled. Poorly controlled asthma was associated with an increase in the demand for healthcare in Latin America. The uneven distribution of control relative to race/ethnicity and income points to the emerging role of social factors influencing the burden of asthma.

652 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 69 (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 16 (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.

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



Ledit RF. Arduso¹, Cecilia Torrent², Rafael Zaugg Nadur², Maricel Ripolone², and Jorge L. Molinas, MD²; 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 ($x = 41.50 \pm 17.01$), 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 asthma 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; CI95 %: 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.