Abstract Presentations

1. Dhiraj Agarwal, India

Breathing and feeling well through universal access to right care
Practices and perceptions of primary care physicians in rural India for diagnosis and management of asthma and COPD: A mixed methods study

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Breathing and feeling well through universal access to right care
Long-term lung conditions, such as asthma and COPD, are very common and can affect people’s well-being, and ability to work and care for their families.

Respiratory symptoms are common but weak primary health care systems in resource-poor countries are often unable to diagnose the underlying disease condition, leading to inappropriate treatment.

To improve treatment of these conditions, we first need to understand how primary care doctors diagnose and treat people with chest symptoms, what makes it difficult for them to provide good care and how they think care can be improved.
Aim

To explore the understanding and perceptions of primary care doctors in the Pune district in India, on the diagnosis and management of lung conditions.

Methodology

Study area: Junnar block of Pune district, Maharashtra, India
Population: All GPs practising in study area (n=450)
Methods:  
• Screening questionnaire  
• In-depth interviews
Data Collection and Analysis

- Screening questionnaire: To all GPs practicing in study area (n=450) - (Previously CME, now remote data collection)
- Selection of GPs based on questionnaire data
- In-depth interviews using interview guide: With selected 16 GPs - (Previously F2F, now using Skype or Zoom)
- These interviews will be transcribed, coded and analyzed thematically.
Data Collection Modes

Face to Face through CME

Remotely through Google Form
# Data Collection Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total GPs approached</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPs filled screening questionnaire</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPs having common practice (Husband and wife sits in same OPD/IPD)</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migrated</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired/Not practising</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yet to approach</td>
<td>432-138=294</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preliminary Findings (n=92)

**Age span**
- 28 to 75 years

**Years of Practice**
- 1 to 50 years

**Degree**
- MBBS: 48 (13 with MD)
- BAMS: 25 (5 with MD)
- BHMS: 12 (6 with MD)
- Other: 7

**Facility**
- Only OPD: 55
- OPD with IPD: 34
- On call (no setup): 3

**Type of Practice**
- Allopathy: 37
- Integrated: 26
- Homeopathy: 10
- Ayurveda: 3
- Specialist (Gynac, Opthal, Physio, Dental, ENT etc.): 17

**Gender distribution among GPs (n, %)**
- Female: 65, 71%
- Male: 27, 29%
## Preliminary Findings (n=92)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Asthma</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>COPD</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnose/treat asthma</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>(65.2%)</td>
<td>Diagnose/treat COPD</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>(37%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of cases of asthma in last 3 months at your clinic facility</td>
<td>0-150</td>
<td></td>
<td>Average number of cases of COPD in last 3 months at your clinic facility</td>
<td>0-50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

(Fig 1) (Fig 2) (Fig 3) (Fig 4)
Anticipated Impact

- Identify ways in which we can improve the diagnosis and management of lung disease in primary care in India.
- Working with national stakeholders, recommendations and interventions can be developed and tested to improve the diagnosis and management of asthma and COPD in rural India.
- The importance of such a study is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that highlight the need to strengthen primary health care across the globe.
Questions to discuss @ IPCRG Virtual Conference

- What criteria to be used for the selection of GPs for in-depth interviews?
- Why are GPs not diagnosing/treating asthma/COPD?
- What barriers and facilitators should I be asking about?
- We plan to use vignettes; what sort of clinical case would be most revealing about clinical management?
Thank You

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