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Title: Cough hypersensitivity syndrome: Preliminary findings of the ERS taskforce

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Body: The ERS Taskforce on the Diagnosis and Classification of Chronic Cough performed a survey of 44 key opinion leaders across the range of respiratory medicine. Questions had been constructed following a modified Delphic process at Task Force meetings. 21 questions were constructed concerning cough hypersensitivity syndrome and its diagnosis, the pathobiology of cough reflex sensitivity and the treatment of the condition. In conjunction with the European Lung Foundation questions were devised on quality of life and the resources available for patients. There was strong unanimity of opinion within the respiratory community with all but one correspondent agreeing the cough hypersensitivity syndrome was an important

clinical syndrome which may co-exist with other respiratory conditions. It was thought to be distinct from asthma and upper airways disease. Steroid responsive cough was thought to be strongly associated with eosinophilic inflammation but this was considered to be a subset of cough hypersensitivity syndrome. Cough in children was considered to be different from adult cough by 20 of 44 correspondents. The under recognition of the impact of cough on quality of life and lack of resources for cough management were overwhelmingly indicated.