Title: Bronchology in the Czech Republic – National surveys during last decades

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Body: Czech bronchology has a long tradition and its activities have been monitored for many years. Statistical analysis based on questionnaires was realised in 1977 (Hlobil), 1994 (Marel), 1996, 1999, 2003 (Kolek). Increasing trends of total numbers of endoscopes, broncoscopies and especially interventional bronchological procedures were verified in this surveys. Similar questionnaire was sent electronically and via post to all Czech bronchological centres in 2009. Personal and telephone contacts were used to accelerate an adequate response, too. Questions dealt with numbers of bronchoscopists, types of bronchoscopes, diagnostic methods, interventional techniques and system of work. Results were compared with older surveys mentioned above. In 2009 there were 59 active bronchological centres, which performed 33,282 bronchoscopies. Out of them 1,637 (4.9%) were done by rigid bronchoscope, 258 were done in children. General anaesthesia was used in 2194, fluoroscopy in 1238 procedures. Altogether 182 bronchoscopists worked with 182 flexible and 87 rigid bronchoscopes, 29 videocameras and 81 videobronchoscopes. Out of all procedures, 544 EBUS, 1724 AFO, 1041 NBI and 46 EMN investigations were performed. Doctors performed 1235 laser resections, 246 electrocautheries, 121 stent insertions, 78 afterloadings, 5 plasmacoagulations, 3 cryotherapies and first endobronchial valves insertions. During last decades, the quantity of bronchological procedures (especially therapeutical and new sophisticated diagnostic methods) is increasing, vice versa the number of bronchological centres is decreasing.