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Title: Increase motivation and efficiency in cystic fibrosis teenagers using sport activities, respiratory muscle training and airway clearance techniques

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Body: Purpose: This study is aiming to demonstrate the efficiency of combined physiotherapy techniques: clearance techniques, respiratory muscle training (RMT) and sport activities, in order to improve clinical outcomes and quality of life in cystic fibrosis teenagers. Method: This prospective study was conducted in the Romanian Cystic Fibrosis Centre and included a number of 40 patients, aged between 12 and 18 years. We have used classic techniques of clearance in the daily physiotherapy: the active cycle of breathing techniques, autogenic drainage, oscillating PEP, high frequency chest wall oscillation (5 times a week), sport programmes (2-4 times a week) and RMT (3 times a week using TrainAir computer system). We have evaluated at baseline and after 24 months of intervention the quality of life (using CFQOL questionnaire) and functional respiratory parameters FVC, FEV₁, FEF_{25-75%}. The statistical processing of data was made using a non-parametric test: the Wilcoxon matched pairs test. Results: On a long term we noticed a substantial improvement in the clinical outcomes (less acute respiratory hospitalization and medication) and CFQOL scores. We also noticed significant statistical difference (p< 0.05), from initial vs. final evaluation in de functional respiratory parameters. Conclusions: All cystic fibrosis patients should be encouraged to combine airway clearance techniques with respiratory muscle training and sport activities for better clinical outcomes and quality of life. Funding Acknowledgements: This paper was supported by a research grant from UEFISCDI Romania, code TE 36.