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Title: Survival of patients with severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in relation to smoking habits

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Body: Introduction: The increase in mortality and morbidity from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is occurring worldwide as a result of the epidemic-like and growing use of tobacco in developing countries. Aims and objectives: Analysis of the correlation between smoking habits and mortality of the COPD patients, evaluation of the two-year survival and the five-year survival, depending on the smoking habits. Methods: The two-year and the five-year survivals were followed up between 2001 and 2007 in respect to smoking habits. The sample consisted of 30 smokers and 30 nonsmokers of both sexes. Criteria for inclusion of smokers were: smokers or former smokers who had smoking experience over 30 years. Criteria for inclusion of non-smokers were: patients who never smoked or who were non-smokers over 12 years. Criteria for exclusion from the study were: patients who get pneumonia or lung cancer in the meantime. Statistical analysis was performed to determine the statistical difference between the groups using standard statistical methods (t-test), and the test of linear correlation was used to correlate these data. Results: The results of the two-year survival were: 90% (27/30) of smokers, and 100% (30/30) of non-smokers survived. The difference was statistically significant at $p < 0.001$. The results of the five-year survival were: 46.66% (14/30) of smokers, and 66.66% (20/30) of non-smokers survived. The difference was statistically important at the level of $p < 0.05$. Conclusions: Two and five years survival is significantly longer in non-smokers compared to smokers in the terminal stage of COPD.