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Title: Insufficient education about COPD is main factor for low diagnosis rate

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Body: Background and Aim: To evaluate if prolonging duration of education and testing COPD campaign will increase presentation for testing (spirometry) and number of new diagnosed COPD cases, in population exposed to risk COPD factors. Methods: One-week campaign was conducted in 2009-2010 and 2 weeks in 2011 on World Day of COPD. Target population had open access to office based spirometry tests. Through personalized letters from President of Romanian Society of Pneumology that inform about 12 reasons to take a spirometry test and the consequences of COPD, population was encouraged to access informative COPD web-site. The primary outcome measure was number of newly-diagnosed cases of COPD as a result of campaign. Results: In 2009 (1 week campaign), 3494 persons presented for testing, 847 were newly diagnosed with COPD (24% diagnosis rate). In 2010 (1 week campaign), 4298 persons were tested, 1259 were diagnosed (29% diagnosis rate). In 2011, 2 weeks campaign resulted in 10523 persons tested, 3593 new diagnosed COPD patients (34% diagnosis rate). Growth 2011/2010 for persons presenting to test was 148%, vs 23% growth 2010/2009; for new diagnosed COPD patients, growth 2011/2010 was 186%, vs 48.64%, growth 2010/2009.

World Day of COPD Campaign results 2009-2011

	2009 (1 week)	2010 (1 week)	2011 (2 weeks)
Number of person tested	3494	4298	10523
Number of new diagnosed patients with COPD	847	1259	3598
Diagnosis rate	24	29	34

Conclusion: Prolonging duration for awareness disease campaign on case-finding for COPD increased testing presentation and interest for learning on COPD. Intensifying efforts for education, not limiting only to celebrating event as World COPD Day, can increase diagnosis rate.

