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Title: Relationship between rhinitis and health status in patients with COPD

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Body: Rationale: Some studies suggested that rhinitis is frequent in subjects with COPD, but its contribution to health status impairment is not clearly established. Methods: Cross-sectional analysis of data from the French COPD cohort Initiatives BPCO (n=784 when data was extracted). Symptoms of rhinitis (obstruction, rhinorrhea, anosmia) were assessed by a standardized questionnaire. Health-related quality of life (HRQoL) was measured using the St. George's Respiratory Questionnaire (SGRQ). Other data included dyspnea (modified Medical Research Council -mMRC- scale), mood disorders (hospital anxiety-depression -HAD- scale) and spirometry. Selected subjects were those with complete datasets for all these variables. Univariate comparisons were performed. Results: 274 COPD subjects were analyzed. 42% (n=115) reported symptoms of rhinitis: rhinorrhea: 62%, nasal obstruction: 43% and anosmia: 16%. Data are median [IQR]. COPD patients with rhinitis had higher SGRQ scores: total 51.4 [33.6-64.3] vs 42.0 [28.5-55.9] (p=0.005), activity 66.3 [47.7-85.9] vs 59.5 [41.3-73.0] (p=0.0016), symptom 57.3 [43.2-70.3] vs 50.4 [36.2-63.1] (p=0.015), impact 36.8 [19.9 -54.5] vs 30.0 [17.8-46.5] (p=0.04), HAD-depression scores 7.0 [3.0-9.0] vs 5.0 [3.0-9.0] (p=0.05) and a trend towards more pronounced dyspnea (p=0.08). They also reported more frequently hay fever (18% vs 9%) and atopic dermatitis (12% vs 5%)(each, p=0.03). FEV1 (mean, 48.5% predicted) did not differ between COPD patients with and without rhinitis. Conclusions: These data suggest that rhinitis in COPD patients is associated with features of atopy, increased dyspnea and more impaired psychological status and quality of life.