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Title: Assessment of satisfaction with inhalation devices in Greek patients

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Body: INTRODUCTION Patients' satisfaction with their inhalation devices is usually decided by appropriate questionnaires. The Feeling of Satisfaction with Inhalers (FSI-10) questionnaire is specifically designed to assess patient opinion regarding the satisfaction and usability of the inhalers. OBJECTIVES A pooled analysis of the data derived from studies to measure patient satisfaction with the Greek version of the FSI-10 questionnaire is presented. METHODS The primary data from three non interventional, observational studies which were conducted in Greece over the last four years were combined. The database included 1.499 patients (866 men) with pulmonary disorders aged between 16 – 97 years, who completed in full the FSI-10. Statistical analysis was done by SPSS version 17.0. RESULTS 909 patients suffered from asthma, 529 from COPD and 29 from both diseases. Four different dry powder inhalers (DPIs) were used. 470 of the participants used Diskus®, 465 Elpenhaler®, 458 Turbuhaler® and 106 Aerolizer®. Mean total scores were found to be 40.2, 43.6, 41.3 and 37.0 respectively. Although consistent and satisfactory results were obtained with all DPIs examined, certain statistically significant differences in the ratings were detected between the devices. Reliability of the measurements was assessed in terms of internal consistency. Cronbach's alpha was found to be equal to 0.916. Reliability analysis was also separately performed by gender, disease or device. Satisfactory alpha values (> 0.9) were obtained in all cases. CONCLUSIONS Greek FSI-10 is a valid and reliable instrument for assessing the opinion of the patients with pulmonary disorders regarding their satisfaction with the inhalers. It is useful for device selection.