

European Respiratory Society Annual Congress 2013

Abstract Number: 1903

Publication Number: 5037

Abstract Group: 1.1. Clinical Problems

Keyword 1: Cough **Keyword 2:** No keyword **Keyword 3:** No keyword

Title: The impact of chronic cough: A European perspective

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Body: Background and Aims: In collaboration, the European Lung Foundation (ELF) and European Respiratory Society (ERS) chronic cough Taskforce launched a European-wide patient survey to explore the management and impact of chronic cough in Europe. Methods: An Internet based survey was launched in January 2012 on the ELF website and was available in 12 languages by October 2012. The survey was promoted via Google through a Google Ad word account, and was promoted by the ELF. Survey responses were collected between 05/01/2012 and 06/01/2013 and are reported as an interim analysis, with Chi-Square analysis to explore relationships between variables. Results: 1868 subjects responded; 1234 responses were excluded due to incomplete demographic data, non-European responses, age <18 years, or cough duration <2 months. 634 (66% females) responses from 28 European countries were analysed. Mean age was 50 (SD:15) years, median cough duration ≥ 10 years, and 84% were non-smokers. Only 56% reported they had been given a diagnosis, despite 93% having seen a doctor in regards to their cough. Asthma was the most common diagnosis at 13%. 97% reported their quality of life was impaired and 95% reported a limitation in the activities they liked to do due to their cough; females compared to males reported a significantly greater limitation ($p=0.004$). 95% reported their cough worried or disturbed their family or friends and 93% felt fed-up or depressed at least sometimes, the latter was significantly greater in women ($p=0.004$). Conclusions: This European survey highlights many patients with chronic cough are undiagnosed, or unaware of their diagnosis, and the impact of chronic cough on daily life and mood is considerable.