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Title: Knowledge of inhalation techniques among health professionals. An experience in primary care

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Body: Introduction. In Primary Care, COPD and asthma are the most common chronic respiratory diseases. Treatment of these conditions requires patients to acquire skills in inhaler devices. Numerous studies claim that health professionals do not know the correct use of inhalation systems. Objectives. To assess and improve skill levels in inhalation techniques among health professionals. Methods: Training workshops were designed and taught by primary care and hospital nurses. Before training, participants were asked to use different inhalation systems to check their knowledge on the technique. In addition, before, after and six months from the training workshop, a 24-question multiple choice test on inhalation technique was administered. Results: the number of professionals trained was 106 and the number of workshops 6, during 2 years. A 69.4% of the professionals initially stated that they knew the inhalation technique however previous knowledge test was not exceeded by any professional. Multiple choice test was exceeded by 32.2%, 100% and 95.1% of participants before, after and 6 months from the training workshop respectively. We found a significant relation between knowing the inhalation technique and postgraduate training or learning while developing their professional activity. Conclusion: The professional assistants did not know the correct use of inhaler devices. After training, there is an improvement in the level of knowledge and skills in inhalation techniques that is held up 6 months later. Training workshop evaluation helps us to detect which aspects should be strengthened in this subject.