

# European Respiratory Society Annual Congress 2012

**Abstract Number:** 7058

**Publication Number:** 1676

**Abstract Group:** 6.1. Epidemiology

**Keyword 1:** Elderly **Keyword 2:** Monitoring **Keyword 3:** Epidemiology

**Title:** Respiratory health at the extremes of the ageing population: Initial results of the UK Newcastle 85+ study

Therese 399 Small therese.small@nuth.nhs.uk <sup>1</sup>, Dr. Joanna 400 Collerton joanna.collerton@newcastle.ac.uk MD <sup>2</sup>, RN. Karen 401 Davies karen.davies@ncl.ac.uk <sup>2</sup>, Mr. Mohammed 402 Yadegarfar mohammed.yadegarfar@ncl.ac.uk <sup>2</sup>, Mr. Thomas 839 Kirkwood thomas.kirkwood@ncl.ac.uk <sup>2</sup>, Prof. Paul 840 Corris paul.corris@ncl.ac.uk MD <sup>3</sup> and Prof. Andrew 841 Fisher a.j.fisher@ncl.ac.uk MD <sup>3</sup>. <sup>1</sup> Sir William Leech Centre, Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom, NE7 7DN ; <sup>2</sup> Institute for Ageing and Health, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom, NE4 5PL and <sup>3</sup> Institute of Cellular Medicine, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom .

**Body:** People aged 85+ years are demographically the fastest growing age group worldwide increasing the burden on healthcare resources. In the Newcastle 85+ study subjects born in 1921, recruited from the Newcastle area, underwent domiciliary health assessment, including respiratory history, symptoms, spirometry and review of general practitioner (GP) records for pre-existing disease. 845 participants (319 Male: 526 Female) took part, regardless of current health status. Significant occupational exposure to heavy industry was reported by 42% men and 17 % women. 71% men and 52% women were current or ex-regular smokers. Review of GP records showed 18% men and 16% women had a diagnosis of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD); 7% men and 13% women a diagnosis of Asthma; and 10% men and 7% women had other primary respiratory diagnoses. 92% performed reproducible spirometry. 28% males had normal spirometry, 13% restrictive and 59% obstructive spirometry (Mild 36%; Moderate 46%; Severe 15% and very severe 3%). In the females, 33% had normal spirometry, 16% restrictive and 51% obstructive spirometry (Mild 44%; Moderate 43%; Severe 11% and very severe 2%). The MRC Dyspnoea score was  $\geq 2$  in 38% men and 40% women. This study presents data on a large population of very elderly people. It shows a high prevalence of diagnosed airways diseases with 25% men and 29% women having asthma or COPD. Obstructive spirometry was reported in 59% men and 50% women with significant disability shown by MRC-dyspnoea score. These initial results suggest a significant burden of respiratory compromise with potential for significant impact on health care services in the coming years.