

# European Respiratory Society Annual Congress 2012

**Abstract Number:** 1862

**Publication Number:** P4742

**Abstract Group:** 6.1. Epidemiology

**Keyword 1:** COPD - diagnosis **Keyword 2:** Epidemiology **Keyword 3:** Smoking

**Title:** Low prevalence and severity of COPD in the Canary Islands: A temperate climate effect?

Mr. Carlos 13919 Cabrera-Lopez carloscabreralopez@hotmail.com MD <sup>1</sup>, Ms. Cristina 13920 Cabrera-Lacalzada cristinaclac@gmail.com MD <sup>2</sup>, Ms. Angeidi 13921 Martin-Medina angeidi\_mm@hotmail.com MD <sup>2</sup>, Dr. Gabriel 13922 Julia-Serda jjulser@gobiernodecanarias.org MD <sup>1</sup> and Prof. Dr Pedro 13923 Cabrera-Navarro pcabnav@gobiernodecanarias.org MD . <sup>1</sup> Pulmonary Medicine, Hospital Universitario de Gran Canaria Dr. Negrín, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, Spain, 35010 and <sup>2</sup> Pulmonary Medicine, Hospital Universitario de Canarias, San Cristobal de La Laguna, Canary Islands, Spain .

**Body:** Introduction: COPD prevalence varies widely depending on the geography. Two epidemiological studies in Spain showed a 9-10% COPD prevalence in population older than 40 years. However, none of them included the Canary Islands, a very interesting area for its climate characteristics and high smoking prevalence. Methods: 1353 people from 40 to 70 years old were randomly selected from a sample of 596,478 individuals. Subjects participating in the study completed a long questionnaire which mainly included items about respiratory health and performed spirometry with broncodilatation test if obstruction was observed.

COPD was diagnosed if FEV1/FVC was lower than 0.7 after a broncodilator test. Results: COPD prevalence in the Canary islands was 7.3% (IC 95%, 5.5-9.5%) being higher in male than female (8.7% CI 95%, 5.8-12.7% vs 6.3% CI 95%, 4.7-8.4% p<0.005). COPD prevalence classified by GOLD showed a 1.1% in stage I, 5.0% in stage II, 1.1% in stage III and 0.3% in stage IV. The level of underdiagnosis was 63.5% and undertreatment reached 71.6%. Conclusions: The Canary Islands have a lower COPD prevalence than the rest of Spain as a whole, with a lower severity in spite of having a high smoking prevalence. This finding could be related to the special climate characteristics of the Canaries.