Introduction

• "Not all UK citizens are diagnostically assessed for COPD or asthma. Therefore 36 million UK citizens are either asymptomatic, have not had a diagnosis of asthma, have long term conditions or have not had follow up care. This may result in under-allocation of healthcare resources."

Previous studies have shown that...

• "Cigarette smoking decreases lung function in the long-term."

Potential respondents to the NHWS are recruited through an existing web-based consumer panel via opt-in emails, with self-selection on the part of patients interested in participating may result in a sub-sample of respondents whose characteristics differ from those of non-participating respondents (eg greater motivation and ability to participate).Analyses

Of the 3105 respondents who self-reported having a physician diagnosis of asthma, 880 reported that they were treated with ICS alone, 679 with LABA alone, and 556 with ICS plus LABA. These results are confirmed by a series of binary logistic regression models on the dichotomized MMAS score. Overall work impairment: a combination of absenteeism and presenteeism

Overall work impairment: a combination of absenteeism and presenteeism

Presenteeism: the percentage of impairment experienced while at work in the past 7 days because of one's health

Despite the extensive information available on asthma, the burden of persistent asthma in the UK population is not fully understood. The current sample was pair-wise constructed to account for different asthma scores, but did not result in a higher percentage of patients reporting they sometimes take their medicine when they feel better. Identifying patients treated with ICS plus LABA who have persistent uncontrolled asthma is an important step towards improving their asthma management.

Limitations

• "Data on the national burden or healthcare resource use are generally lacking for asthma and COPD."

Conclusions

• "Overall, patients treated with ICS plus LABA had a significantly lower number and severity of exacerbations compared with those treated with ICS or LABA alone, but did not result in a higher percentage of patients reporting they sometimes take their medicine when they feel better."

References

1. Quality and Outcomes Framework. Achievement, prevalence and handicap. Identifying patients treated with ICS plus LABA who have persistent uncontrolled asthma is an important step towards improving their asthma management.

Acknowledgements