

Preventative care and home treatment in patients at risk of hospitalization due to exacerbation of COPD

Birgit Refsgaard¹, Lotte Ørneborg Rodkjær², Vibeke Bregnballe³ Andreas Fløe Hvass⁴ & Anders Løkke¹

¹ Department of Respiratory Medicine and Allergy, Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark

² Department of Infectious Diseases, Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark

³ Department of Public Health - Department of Science in Nursing, Aarhus University, Denmark

⁴ Medical Department, Randers Regional Hospital, Denmark



Aim

To examine the number of admissions and length of hospitalization for patients affiliated to a cross-sectorial lung team.

Background

Exacerbation of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is one of the most common reasons for hospitalization. The patients with severe and very severe COPD have a high risk of admission and re-admission.

Method

Fortyseven COPD GOLD-group D patients (mean age 71,8 Years; 62% women) were affiliated to a cross-sectorial lung team from February to August 2016. The patients were able to call the cross-sectorial lung team day and night.

The cross-sectorial lung team offered:

- Home visits
- Medical treatment
- Education to patients, relatives and home care professionals

The results were compared with retrospective journal data on the same patients from February to August in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Results

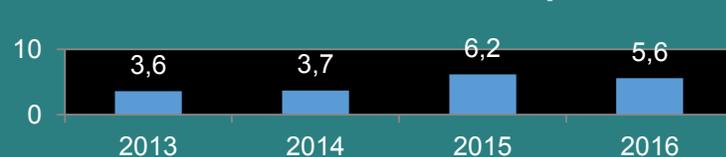
77 % (n=36) of the patients contacted the cross-sectorial lung team during February to August 2016. 4 of the 11 patients who did not contact the cross-sectorial lung team represented 46 % of the total admissions due to COPD for the entire group (13 admissions) in 2016.

The number of hospital admissions and the average length of hospitalization showed a declining tendency after affiliation to the cross-sectorial lung team.

Admissions due to COPD for 6 months



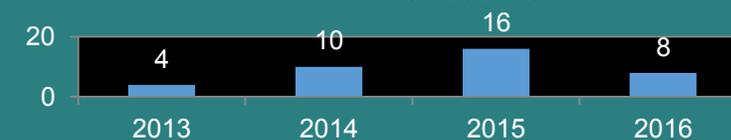
The average length of hospitalization due to COPD in days



Conclusion

Affiliation to the cross-sectorial lung team seems to reduce hospitalizations and length of stay for patients with COPD.

Admissions due to COPD + comorbidities for 6 months



The average length of hospitalization due to COPD + comorbidities in days

