

7.13 Clinical Characteristics of Patients Admitted to CUH in 2019 with COPD Exacerbation

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Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is the third leading cause of death worldwide. Ireland has the highest mortality rate from any respiratory cause in Europe (134/100,000), and the third highest in COPD-specific mortality (58.15/100.000). The Irish National Audit of Hospital Mortality 2019 shows that COPD is the only leading cause of death with an increasing mortality rate. We reviewed the clinical characteristics of patients admitted to Cork University Hospital with COPD exacerbations in 2019. Patients transferred to other hospitals, discharged the same day, or incorrectly coded were excluded. 491 patients were coded by the HIPE department as COPD exacerbations and 317 met the inclusion criteria. 31 patients (9.7%) had a spirometry-confirmed COPD diagnosis documented. The mean FEV1 of this group was 61.6%. Of the total 317 patients 35 (11.0%) were on LTOT, 45 (14.2 %) required non-invasive ventilation, 132 (41.6 %) were admitted under the Respiratory Service, and 135 (42.6 %) have died within three years. Among this cohort of patients, the rate of spirometric diagnosis was low (9.7%) and mortality was high. This lack of spirometry could ultimately lead to an overdiagnosis of COPD and contribute to poor health indices of the disease in Ireland.

Table 1 (7.13)

Gender	Male	Female	Total	T-test
Total number (%)	151 (47.6)	166 (52.4)	317	-
Mean age, years ± standard deviation	73.2 ± 9.8	71.1 ± 9.8	72.1 ± 9.8	0.05
Mean length of stay, days ± standard deviation	9.0 ± 9.0	9.7 ± 9.7	9.4 ± 9.6	0.59
Spirometry (%)	29 (47.5)	32 (52.5)	61	-
Post-Bronchodilator Spirometry (%)	16 (41.0)	23 (59)	39	-
Obstruction post bronchodilation (%)	13 (41.9)	18 (58.1)	31	-
Mean FEV1, % ± standard deviation	61.4 ± 24.6	61.7 ± 24.7	61.6 ± 24.7	0.54
Long term oxygen therapy (%)	14 (40)	21 (60)	35	-
Non-invasive ventilation (%)	17 (37.8)	28 (62.2)	45	-
3 year mortality (%)	69 (51.1)	66 (48.9)	135	-
Patients under Respiratory service			132	

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Conflict of Interest: None to declare