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Title: Obscure chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in tobacco smokers having ischemic heart disease

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Body: Introduction: The motive of this research was to unmask the obscure high prevalent COPD in patients with proven IHD. Aims and Objectives: To evaluate and compare the frequency of undiagnosed COPD in current or former tobacco smokers suffering from IHD as well as to analyze the association of COPD severity with type and duration of tobacco smoking. Methods: An analytical cross-sectional study enrolling 124 IHD patients who underwent spirometry for the diagnosis of obscure COPD. The total sample was evaluated and compared for COPD frequency after dividing into three groups according to the type of tobacco smoking including exclusive cigarette smokers, exclusive hookah (water pipe) smokers and combined hookah and cigarette smokers. Results: Among 124 males with established IHD there were 87 indoor and 37 outdoor participants. Forty seven (37.9%) were up to 50 years, 48 (38.7%) 51-60 years and 5 (4%) were above 71 years of age. Majority, 74 (59.7%) were former smokers. Types of tobacco smoking included 64 (51.6%) as cigarette, 30 (24.2%) hookah and 30 (24.2%) were combined hookah and cigarette smokers. Forty seven (37.90%) were having COPD out of which 19 (40.4%) were current while remaining 28 (59.6%) were former smokers. The comparison of frequency of COPD among different types of tobacco smoking showed 24 cases (37.5%) of cigarette smokers were COPD positive, 12 (40%) of hookah smokers and 11 (36.7%) cases were from combined cigarette and hookah smokers group. Conclusion: The frequency of undetected COPD was high (37.9%) among tobacco smokers suffering from IHD and that the hookah and combined hookah and cigarette smokers were almost as prone to develop COPD as cigarette smokers.