EFFICACY OF CASE METHOD EDUCATION IN COPD ON PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN PRIMARY CARE AND PATIENTS’ HEALTH: RANDOMIZED CONTROL STUDY.
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Research question: How does a professional training program based on case methodology affect quality of COPD care by primary care physicians’ (PCPs) and quality of life, health status, symptoms, exacerbations, medication and smoking cessation in patients with COPD?

Background: Research shows evidence based guidelines for COPD are poorly followed in Sweden. Interactive educational meetings are shown more efficient than traditional lectures in cardiovascular prevention in general practice. This study is an RCT aiming at assessing the effects of a professional COPD training program based on case methodology (interactive educational meetings) on professional practice and healthcare outcomes.

Possible methodology: 80 PCPs in Stockholm County and 320 randomly chosen patients to them in matched intervention and control groups participate. PCPs obtain COPD training using mixed case methodology and didactic formats (intervention), or didactic lecture only (control). Outcomes are measured in baseline and one year after the intervention. Validated patient questionnaires are utilized. For PCPs, a questionnaire focusing on practical COPD management is constructed using Rasch analysis. Logistic regression and multivariate variance analysis are used.

Questions to discuss: In light of the complexity of primary care, should educational interventions for PCPs generally be based on practical interactive training in order to change PCPs’ behavior and improve patients’ health?

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Disclosure of Interest: None Declared