

IMPACT OF INHALED CORTICOSTEROIDS (ICS) TREATMENT ON LOCAL INFLAMMATORY PROCESS AND PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST (PFT) IN PATIENTS WITH MODERATE OBSTRUCTIONS IN COPD

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Bronchial and peripheral lung inflammation in COPD patients is the main process responsible for the signs and symptoms which cause effector cells infiltration and changes in reticular basement membrane thickness.

The aim of the study was to assess the impact of ICS treatment on the number of eosinophils in BALF, local bronchial wall inflammation, RBM thickness and PFT in patients with moderate COPD.

Material and methods. Twenty four patients with never treated moderate COPD were included into the study. Each one had a PFT, FB with BALF and bronchial biopsy procedure carried out, before and 12 months after the inhaler treatment; group (ICS-) n=13 (cholinolytic and LABA), and (ICS+) n=11 (cholinolytic, LABA and ICS).

Results. There were reductions in RBM thickness, percentage of eosinophils in BALF and increase in their number in local bronchial infiltration in both groups. Similarly, there were significant alterations in RV%TLC values, Raw, intensity of local bronchial eosinophilic inflammation and the thickness of RBM, FEV1 ($r=0,72$) and RV%TLC ($r=0,56$) only before the treatment respectively in (ICS+) patients.

Conclusions. The combined therapy with ICS shows a partial influence on local eosinophilic inflammation with no effect on lung function.