

IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF CHRONIC RESPIRATORY NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN THE MUNICIPAL INSTITUTE FOR LUNG DISEASES AND TB BELGRADE

Marina Roksandić Milenković,¹ Dejan Dimić,¹ Nemanja Dimić,²

¹ *Municipal Institute for Lung Diseases and TB Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia*

² *Clinical Hospital Center Dr Dragiša Mišović Dedinje, Belgrade, Serbia*

DOI: 10.5937/BatutPHCO24049R

Background: Chronic respiratory noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are group of chronic diseases of the respiratory tract and other structures of the lung tissue, in the occurrence, origin and course of which factors of the external environment play a significant role.

Covid 19 pandemic has caused serious disruptions at the global level in the provision of healthcare services in the field of diagnosis and treatment of these diseases.

Objectives and Methods: Aim of this retrospective study was to determine the impact of Covid 19 infection on NCDs and the number of participants of smoking cessation, asthma and COPD schools in Municipal Institute for Lung Diseases and TB in Belgrade when it functioned as Covid triage centre (2020. - 2022.)

Results: The average numbers of the first examination under the diagnosis of COPD and asthma before the Covid 19 pandemic (2014. till 2019.) were 10032 and 6696 retrospectively, during the Covid 19 pandemic (2020. – 2022.) 4218, and 3559 retrospectively and after Covid 19 pandemic (2023.) 7389 and 6388 retrospectively.

The number of smoking cessation schools held before the Covid 19 pandemic (2014. till 2019.) was 51 with 404 participants (212 participants quit smoking - 52.4%), during Covid 19 pandemic (2020. -2022.) 2 with 80 participants (there is no data of the number who quit smoking) and after the Covid 19 pandemic (2023.) 7 with 79 participants - smoking quit 43 (54.5%). The number of COPD schools held before the Covid 19 pandemic (2015. till 2019.) was 86 with 670 participants, during the Covid 19 pandemic (2020. – 2022.) 2 with 30 participants, and after the Covid 19 pandemic 13 with 88 participants (2023.)

Conclusion: The number of first examinations of NCDs, as well as the number of participants of smoking cessation, asthma and COPD schools in Municipal Institute for Lung Diseases and TB in Belgrade was significantly lower during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Neglecting continuous efforts to control and prevent these diseases at any time in the future can be increase the number of people suffering from these diseases with potentially more severe clinical manifestations.

Keywords: COVID-19, prevention, chronic respiratory NCD