but must be openly discussed, communicated and documented. A predicted moderate to high risk of death from community-acquired pneumonia is a highly relevant piece of information required to mount an ethically valid treatment recommendation and decision, particularly in those patients with pneumonia regarded to be a terminal event. Nevertheless, we recalculated the predictions of the CRB-65 score excluding all those who died without having received any ventilator support during hospitalisation. The results are: overall death rate 8618, 2.5%, CRB-65 risk class 1: 0.5%, risk class 2: 1.7% and risk class 3: 12.2%. These numbers support the following conclusions: (1) the CRB-65 score remains useful in predicting deaths in a three class pattern; (2) obviously, virtually no previous study on community-acquired pneumonia truly excluded all patients with treatment limitations.

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Competing interests None.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; not externally peer reviewed.

Accepted 24 August 2010
Published Online First 23 November 2010
doi:10.1136/thx.2010.149716

REFERENCE

Pulmonary rehabilitation in patients with MRC Dyspnoea Scale 2

The recent INTERCOM study emphasises the point that community-based rehabilitation is effective, even in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) with less advanced airflow obstruction.1 However, COPD and pulmonary rehabilitation guidelines recommend offering pulmonary rehabilitation (PR) to patients who consider themselves functionally disabled (usually defined as MRC Dyspnoea Scale grades 3 or above).2 3 We wished to test whether less breathless patients with COPD (ie, MRC Dyspnoea Scale grade 2) also benefit from PR.

METHODS
All patients with MRC grade 2 dyspnoea referred to the Lambeth & Southwark Community Pulmonary Rehabilitation Team between the years 2004–7 were included in the study. Patients were offered PR at one of two hospital or five community sites. Each programme consisted of two supervised sessions per week for 8 weeks (with one unsupervised home session) delivered by the same team. Outcome measures were the incremental shuttle walk (ISW), the Chronic Respiratory Disease Questionnaire Dyspnoea score (CRQ-D) and the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HAD-Anxiety and HAD-Depression). Patients with COPD with MRC dyspnoea grades 3 or 4 undergoing PR over the same time period acted as controls. Changes in outcomes between patients with MRC grade 2 and those with MRC grades 3 or 4 dyspnoea before and after PR were compared using t tests or Mann-Whitney tests.

RESULTS
The results were analysed for 126 patients with MRC grade 2 dyspnoea and 316 with MRC grades 3/4 dyspnoea who completed PR (attended >3 supervised sessions). The groups were well matched for age (mean 69 vs 68 years), gender (50% vs 43% male) and mean forced expiratory volume in 1 s (58% vs 54% predicted), although the MRC grade 2 group had increased ISW (504 vs 201 m; p<0.001), less dyspnoea (median CRQ-D 3.2 vs 2.6) and reduced anxiety and depression scores (median HAD-Anxiety 6.0 vs 9.0; median HAD-Depression 5.0 vs 8.0). Following PR, the MRC grade 2 dyspnoea group showed similar improvements in ISW, CRQ-D, HAD-Anxiety and HAD-Depression to the MRC grades 3/4 dyspnoea group (table 1).

DISCUSSION
Although patients with MRC dyspnoea grade 2 referred for PR have better exercise capacity and fewer symptoms of dyspnoea, anxiety or depression than patients with MRC dyspnoea grades 3/4, they show similar improvements with PR. Exercise-based interventions for COPD should not ignore less severe patients (either in terms of lung function or subjective dyspnoea).

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Funding WD-OM is supported by a National Institute for Health Research Clinician Scientist award. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the NHS, The National Institute for Health Research or the Department of Health.

Competing interests None.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; not externally peer reviewed.

Accepted 8 February 2010
Published Online First 29 September 2010
doi:10.1136/thx.2010.136085

REFERENCES


The potential danger of a solely interferon-γ release assay-based approach to testing for latent Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection in children

The study reported by Lucas et al4 is a valuable addition to recent publications that have compared the performance of commercial interferon-γ release assays (IGRAs) with that of the tuberculin skin test (TST) for the diagnosis of latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) in high-risk children.3 5 However, we believe that the principal conclusions are not supported by the data provided and that a more guarded interpretation is warranted.

In agreement with previous studies in children,3 5 Lucas et al found significant discordance between the results of IGRAs and TST. Specifically, of 420 T-SPOT.TB and 460

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1</th>
<th>Effects of pulmonary rehabilitation in patients with MRC 2 and MRC 3/4 dyspnoea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes</td>
<td>Change following PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MRC 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean (SD) ISW (m)</td>
<td>83 (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median (25%, 75% centile) ISW% change</td>
<td>27 (12, 45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean (SD) CRQ-D</td>
<td>0.75 (0.11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median (25%, 75% centile) HAD-anxiety</td>
<td>−1 (−3, 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median (25%, 75% centile) HAD-depression</td>
<td>0 (−2.5, 1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HAD, Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale; ISW, incremental shuttle walk; PR, pulmonary rehabilitation.
Pulmonary rehabilitation in patients with MRC Dyspnoea Scale 2

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Thorax 2011 66: 263 originally published online September 29, 2010
doi: 10.1136/thx.2010.136085

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