

Association between smoking cessation and alterations in forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV1). A Follow-Up Study from a Greek Tobacco Cessation Clinic

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Original Article

Abstract

Background: Cigarette smoking is the most important preventable cause of several diseases such as malignancies, pulmonary and cardiovascular diseases. Smoking cessation is now supported by both behavioral counseling and medical pharmacotherapy and is the only effective approach for slowing down an accelerated decline in forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV1). Our study aims to examine changes in forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV1) after smoking cessation for smokers attending our smoking cessation clinic their correlation to smokers' demographic characteristics.

Methods: 114 smokers (48 males and 66 females), with a mean age of 48.36±10.49 years, were enrolled. They were classified in 4 groups, according to their age; <40 years (Group A), 41-50 years (Group B), 51-60 years (Group C), >60 years (Group D) and underwent Spirometry on the 1st day of visit, one month (2nd visit) and, 3 months later (3rd visit).

Findings: Statistically significant increase in FEV1 values at the 2nd and 3rd visit compared to the 1st visit was observed in smokers who quit smoking in Group A, B and C (p<0.05). In addition, a statistically significant decrease in FEV1 values at the 2nd and 3rd visit compared to the 1st visit was noticed in smokers who continued smoking in Group B, C and D (p<0.05).

Conclusion: Smoking cessation achieved through smoking cessation support led to the improvement of FEV1 values within 3 months. The greatest benefit was observed in smokers under the age of 60.

Keywords: Forced Expiratory Volume; Smoking Cessation; Tobacco Smoking; Spirometry

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Introduction

Cigarette smoking is the most important preventable cause of several diseases such as cancer, pulmonary disorders and cardiovascular diseases.¹ It causes inflammation and oxidative stress, leading to vasomotor dysfunction and impaired blood coagulation.² In addition, smoking is the most significant risk factor for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The main characteristic of COPD is airflow limitation.³ Spirometry is a pulmonary function test used to evaluate airflow limitation, particularly through the calculation of forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV1).⁴

Low FEV1 has a negative feedback on itself so it leads to more FEV1 drop and develops clinically significant COPD.⁴ Moreover, low FEV1 predicts correlation between cardiovascular morbidity and mortality.⁵ More specifically, excess coronary heart disease mortality follows a great decline in FEV1, independently of initially predicted FEV1%, tobacco smoking, or other common coronary heart disease risk factors.⁵

Decreased FEV1 values have also been associated with mortality in advanced non-small cell lung cancer.⁶

It is well established that smokers have an average reduction rate of FEV1 that is greater than those who have never smoked⁷ and it has been mentioned that quitting smoking decreases the rate of FEV1 decline in smokers without respiratory symptoms and in smokers with COPD.⁸ In addition, patients who quit smoking have less pulmonary symptoms and hyperresponsiveness than people who continue smoking.⁹

Smoking cessation is now supported by both behavioral counseling and medical pharmacotherapy. Pharmacotherapy for smoking cessation is suggested for all smokers trying to quit, unless there is a contraindication. Through acting by various mechanisms, cessation medications can decrease both withdrawal from nicotine symptoms as well as the immediate effects of nicotine absorbed via tobacco if an individual smokes.¹⁰ Tobacco cessation is the only effective strategy for slowing down an accelerated decline in FEV1 and the only intervention able to reduce the progression of COPD. The greatest improvements in pulmonary function and symptoms improvement will develop within the first year after quitting smoking.⁷

In this research, we aim to investigate the alterations in FEV1 following smoking cessation in smokers that visited our smoking cessation clinic

and their correlation to smokers' demographic characteristics. Similar studies have been conducted in Sweden, the United States, and Japan in healthy smokers, showing important improvement in FEV1 values, following smoking cessation therapy.¹¹⁻¹⁵ In addition, some studies have demonstrated a significant improvement in FEV1 values with smoking cessation therapy in patients with underlying lung disease.¹⁶⁻²³

Methods

Study participants and sampling: The design of the present study was prospective. The data collection took place at "Sismanogleio Hospital" from January to April 2019. The study was approved by the relevant Institutional Board (protocol number 7065/7-12-19). The study conformed to the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki (as revised in Edinburgh 2000).

In this research, adult active smokers who visited the smoking cessation clinic of Sismanogleio Hospital in Athens for smoking cessation support, were enrolled. Smokers <18 years old and pregnant women were excluded. Smokers with a history of pulmonary disease, collagen vascular disease, Pleural disease, neuromuscular disease, or occupational exposure that could probably affect lungs, were also excluded. In addition, none of them had reported lung infections within two weeks before entry and two weeks before each spirometry.

Spirometry and Smoking Cessation Support: Age, gender, height, and weight were recorded prior to the spirometry. Maximal expiratory flow volume was estimated while participants were seated and wore nose clips. An automated spirometer (Cosmed Micro Quark, Italy) was used to measure forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV1). Up to 3 trials were conducted and an average of 2 technically acceptable tests was recorded. The tests had an agreement of 5% to be considered acceptable. FEV1 was measured on the day of the first visit (January 1st -January 15th), one month (February 1st - February 15th) and 3 months later (April 1st -April 15th). All smokers received both behavioral support and treatment with medications including monotherapy with varenicline or a combination of nicotine replacement agents. No changes were made to any other previously prescribed medications.

Data Collection: FEV1 values at three visits and the smoking cessation rates were recorded. The participants were divided to four age groups: <40

years, 41-50 years, 51-60 years and >60 years. Mean FEV1 values were calculated in all age groups of participants who achieved quitting and who continued smoking and were compared between visits in each age group.

Statistical analysis: For statistical analysis, the SPSS version 17.0 for Windows was utilized. Continuous variables were checked for normality of distribution with the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. Descriptive data were presented as mean (\pm standard deviation) for values with normal distribution. Independent t-test and One Way ANOVA were used for variables with normal distribution. Correlation of characteristics was

performed using the Pearson's chi-square and Linear-by-Linear Association test, as appropriate. Five percent was chosen as the level of statistical significance.

Results

In this research, a total number of 114 smokers (48 males and 66 females, with a mean age of 48.36 ± 10.49 years) were enrolled: Twenty-eight in the age group <40 years (Group A), 34 smokers in the age group 41-50 years (Group B), 44 smokers in the age group 51-60 years (Group C), and 8 smokers in the age group >60 years (Group D). (Table 1).

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the study population

	Mean(S.D.)	Median	Range	Min-Max
Age	48.36(10.49)	48.00	47.00	28.00-75.00
Gender		N	%	
	Male	48	42.1	
	Female	66	57.9	

* S.D: Standard Deviation

Fourteen smokers in Group A, 8 in Group B, 20 in Group C, and 2 in Group D quit smoking. For smokers who quit smoking the mean value of FEV1 was 2480.00 ± 170.60 ml at the 1st visit, 2545.71 ± 178.52 ml at the 2nd visit (at one month), and 2584.28 ± 192.22 ml at the 3rd visit (at three months) in Group A, 2159.75 ± 10.43 ml at the 1st visit, 2259.75 ± 16.74 ml at

the 2nd visit, and 2357.50 ± 56.75 ml at the 3rd visit in Group B, 1901.00 ± 321.42 ml at the 1st visit, 2064.80 ± 284.54 ml at the 2nd visit, and 2193.80 ± 231.90 ml at the 3rd visit in Group C, and 1560.00 ± 0.00 ml at the 1st visit, 1710.00 ± 0.00 ml at the 2nd visit, and 1890.00 ± 0.00 ml at the 3rd visit in Group D (Table 2).

Table 2. Mean values of FEV1 at 1st visit, at 2nd visit (at one month) and at 3rd visit (at 3 months) in age groups >40 years, 41-50 years, 51-60 years and >60 years in smokers that quit smoking.

Age group	FEV1	Mean(S.D)	N
<40 years	FEV1 1 st Visit	2480.00(170.60)	14
	FEV1 2 nd Visit	2545.71(178.52)	
	FEV1 3 rd Visit	2584.28(192.22)	
41-50 years	FEV1 1 st Visit	2159.75(10.43)	8
	FEV1 2 nd Visit	2259.75(16.74)	
	FEV1 3 rd Visit	2357.50(56.75)	
51-60 years	FEV1 1 st Visit	1901.00(321.42)	20
	FEV1 2 nd Visit	2064.80(284.54)	
	FEV1 3 rd Visit	2193.80(231.90)	
>60 years	FEV1 1 st Visit	1560.00(0.00)	2
	FEV1 2 nd Visit	1710.00(0.00)	
	FEV1 3 rd Visit	1890.00(0.00)	

*FEV1: Forced Expiratory Volume in 1 second, S.D: Standard Deviation

There was a statistically significant difference in FEV1 values between 1st and 2nd, 2nd and 3rd, and 1st and 3rd visit of smokers who quit smoking in age groups A, B and C ($p < 0.05$). (Table 3).

Figure 1 shows the mean difference between in FEV1 values between the 1st and the 3rd visit of smokers who quit smoking.

Table 3. Mean differences in FEV1 values between 1st and 2nd visit, 2nd and 3rd visit and 1st and 3rd visit in smokers who quit smoking

Age group	Difference in FEV1	Mean (S.D)	p
<40 years	FEV1 2 nd Visit-FEV1 1 st Visit	65.71(34.58)	0.000
	FEV1 3 rd Visit-FEV1 1 st Visit	104.29(80.92)	0.000
	FEV1 3 rd Visit-FEV1 2 nd Visit	38.57(48.49)	0.011
41-50 years	FEV1 2 nd Visit-FEV1 1 st Visit	100.00(7.55)	0.000
	FEV1 3 rd Visit-FEV1 1 st Visit	197.75(46.41)	0.000
	FEV1 3 rd Visit-FEV1 2 nd Visit	97.75(41.19)	0.000
51-60 years	FEV1 1 st Visit - FEV1 2 nd Visit	163.80(58.92)	0.000
	FEV1 3 rd Visit-FEV1 1 st Visit	292.80(105.76)	0.000
	FEV1 3 rd Visit-FEV1 2 nd Visit	129.00(68.12)	0.000

*FEV1: Forced Expiratory Volume in 1 second, S.D: Standard Deviation

Fourteen smokers reduced smoking in Group A, 26 smokers continued smoking in Group B, 24 smokers continued smoking in Group C, and 6 smokers continued smoking in Group D. The mean value of FEV1 was 2477.14±99.49 ml at the 1st visit, 2449.28±158.12 ml at the 2nd visit, and 2442.85±178.08 ml at the 3rd visit for smokers who continued smoking in Group A, 2326.15±178.73 ml at the 1st

visit, 2266.92±230.69 ml at the 2nd visit, and 2239.23±219.98 ml at the 3rd visit in Group B, 1993.33±219.26 ml at the 1st visit, 1928.33±265.97 ml at the 2nd visit, and 1882.50±275.40 ml at the 3rd visit in Group C, and 1586.66±33.86 ml at the 1st visit, 1446.66±121.76 ml at the 2nd visit, and 1350.00±114.19 ml at the 3rd visit in Group D (Table 4).

Table 4. Mean values of FEV1 at 1st visit, at 2nd visit (at one month) and at 3rd visit (at 3 months) in age groups >40 years, 41-50 years, 51-60 years and >60 years in smokers that continued smoking

Age group	FEV1	Mean(S.D)	N
<40 years	FEV1 1 st Visit	2477.14(99.49)	14
	FEV1 2 nd Visit	2449.28(158.12)	
	FEV1 3 rd Visit	2442.85(178.08)	
41-50 years	FEV1 1 st Visit	2326.15(178.73)	26
	FEV1 2 nd Visit	2266.92(230.69)	
	FEV1 3 rd Visit	2239.23(219.98)	
51-60 years	FEV1 1 st Visit	1993.33(219.26)	24
	FEV1 2 nd Visit	1928.33(265.97)	
	FEV1 3 rd Visit	1882.50(275.40)	
>60 years	FEV1 1 st Visit	1586.66(33.86)	6
	FEV1 2 nd Visit	1446.66(121.76)	
	FEV1 3 rd Visit	1350.00(114.19)	

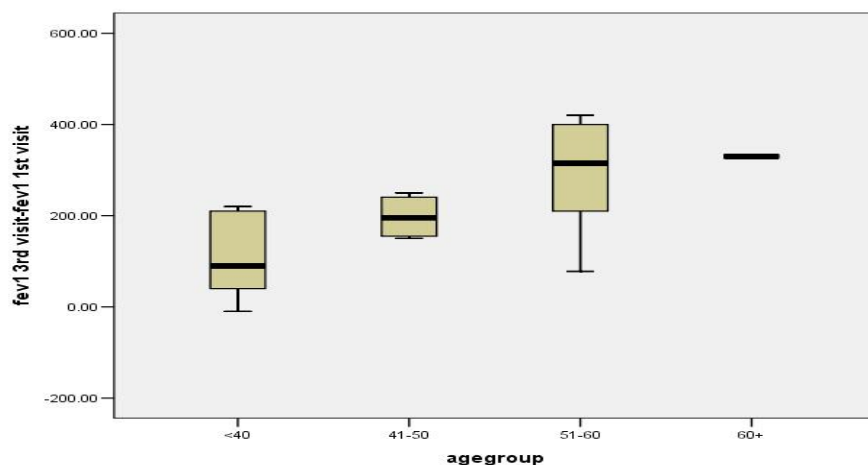


Figure 1. Mean differences in FEV1 values between the 1st and the 3rd visit of smokers who quit smoking

There was a statistically significant difference in FEV1 values between 1st and 2nd, 2nd and 3rd, and 1st

and 3rd visit of smokers who continued smoking in age groups B, C and D ($p < 0.05$). (Table 5)

Table 5. Mean differences in FEV1 values between 1st and 2nd visit, 2nd and 3rd visit and 1st and 3rd visit in smokers who continued smoking

Age group	Difference in FEV1	Mean (S.D)	p
<40 years	FEV1 2 nd Visit-FEV1 1 st Visit	-27.85(86.72)	0.251
	FEV1 3 rd Visit-FEV1 1 st Visit	-34.28(113.25)	0.278
	FEV1 3 rd Visit-FEV1 2 nd Visit	-6.42(37.69)	0.534
41-50 years	FEV1 2 nd Visit-FEV1 1 st Visit	-59.23(69.68)	0.000
	FEV1 3 rd Visit-FEV1 1 st Visit	-86.92(64.42)	0.000
	FEV1 3 rd Visit-FEV1 2 nd Visit	-27.69(46.50)	0.006
51-60 years	FEV1 2 nd Visit-FEV1 1 st Visit	-65.00(92.82)	0.002
	FEV1 3 rd Visit-FEV1 1 st Visit	-110.83(110.52)	0.000
	FEV1 3 rd Visit-FEV1 2 nd Visit	-45.83(44.61)	0.000
>60 years	FEV1 2 nd Visit-FEV1 1 st Visit	-140.00(88.09)	0.011
	FEV1 3 rd Visit-FEV1 1 st Visit	-236.66(81.15)	0.001
	FEV1 3 rd Visit-FEV1 2 nd Visit	-96.66(13.66)	0.000

*FEV1: Forced Expiratory Volume in 1 second, S.D: Standard Deviation

Discussion

According to our results, there was a statistically significant difference in FEV1 values between sequential visits in age groups <40, 41-50, and 51-60 years for smokers who quit smoking with greatest values at 3rd visit. A statistically significant difference was also observed in age groups 41-50, 51-60 and >60 years for smokers who continued smoking with reduced values at 2nd and 3rd visit. This indicates that smoking cessation support leads to a significant increase of FEV1 values. The influence of smoking cessation on Spirometry

values has been studied since 1977 when Bake et al., in a small study of 59 smokers, found that the subjects that remained abstinent for at least five months had a substantial improvement in FEV1.¹¹ Townsend et al. reported that smokers who quit during the first 12 months had smaller declines in FEV1. They also concluded that middle-aged, healthy smokers who stopped smoking permanently, could expect FEV1 values to decrease at a more gradual rate 3-4 years after smoking cessation than those who continue to smoke.¹² Burchfiel et al., in a large study of 4.451 smokers,

found that smoking cessation led to less steep rates of decline in Spirometry values over a short time period in middle-aged men, as well as in men with confirmed pulmonary impairment.¹³

In a study of smokers who quit and were followed up for 17 years, Sherrill et al. reported a beneficial effect related to quitting, largest for younger individuals. Better FEV1 values were observed in women compared to men of all ages.¹⁴ Iwaoka and Tsuji. studied 81 subjects after 12 weeks of smoking cessation therapy with varenicline and found that spirometric lung age, which is calculated by both height and FEV1, improved in this short period of time.¹⁵

The effects of smoking cessation on pulmonary function have also been studied in populations with lung disorders. Chaudhuri et al. in a study of 21 patients with asthma, by six weeks after smoking cessation, described that individuals who quit smoking had achieved significant improvement in lung function, accompanied by decrease in sputum neutrophil counts in comparison with individuals who continued to smoke.¹⁶ Jang et al., in a study of asthmatic smokers, found that patients who quit tobacco use showed less airway obstruction, indicating that smoking cessation is a crucial intervention in the management of asthma.¹⁷

Scanlon et al. in a large prospective clinical trial studied 3926 smokers with known mild-to-moderate airway obstruction who were randomized to one of two groups of smoking cessation or to a group with no intervention. They concluded that participants who stopped smoking presented with an improvement in FEV1 one year after quitting; and the subsequent rate of FEV1 decline among those who sustained quitting was half of the rate among continuing tobacco users.¹⁸ In a randomized, double-blind trial of smokers with mild-to-moderate COPD treated with varenicline, Tashkin et al. found that after one year of cessation, continuous abstinence in comparison with continuous smoking greatly improved FEV1 at week 12 with sustained result thereafter.¹⁹ Dhariwal et al. reported that smokers with COPD who quit smoking had a pronounced but transient improvement in FEV1 at 6 weeks, which was sustained until 12 weeks and was only partially present at one year.²⁰

Bohadana et al. studied occupationally exposed workers to respiratory pollutants and found that in males, smoking cessation slowed the annual

FEV1 decline.²¹ In a study by Maci et al., tobacco smoke users were evaluated with spirometry at the beginning and after three months of smoking cessation therapy and a significant increase in FEV1 was observed through the reduction of size of existing lung nodules.²² Pezzuto et al. demonstrated that the combination of anti-EGFR treatment and therapy for smoking cessation was more effective than monotherapy with erlotinib in improving lung function in advanced NSCLC patients having EGFR-mutations.²³

To the best of our knowledge, this study is one of the few studies investigating the impact of smoking cessation and reduction in FEV1 in smokers who seek smoking cessation support in Greece. This study has some limitations. This research is based on data from a single center that limits the generalization of the conclusions to a larger population. Thus, larger prospective studies, in multiple smoking cessation clinics in Greece, are needed for better evaluation of the results. Another limitation is that this study did not take into account the number of cigarettes smoked and the severity of smoking which can have a significant effect on the results.

Conclusion

Smoking cessation achieved with smoking cessation support leads to improvement of FEV1 values within 3 months. It is of great importance to decrease smoking-related health complications by educating population about tobacco's harmful impact, and informing them about tobacco cessation programs, including behavioral counseling and pharmacologic therapy. These policies appear to be effective, as smoking rates are decreasing in countries with developed and developing economy, and can prevent FEV1 decline, especially in smokers younger than 60 years old.

Conflict of Interests

None.

Acknowledgements

None.

Authors' Contribution

Design of the study: VEG, KM, DM, and AL; acquisition of data: CD, NG, AG and PS; analysis and interpretation: PP, SC, DM; drafting of manuscript: VEG and NT; critical revision: NT and XT.

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Cessation Treatment" on Lung Function and Response Rate in EGFR Mutated Patients: A Short-Term Cohort Study. *Recent Pat Anticancer Drug Discov* 2015;10(3):342-51. doi: 10.2174/1574892810666150806111014

ارتباط بین ترک سیگار و تغییر در حجم بازدم اجباری در یک ثانیه (FEV1). مطالعه تکمیلی از یک کلینیک ترک دخانیات یونان

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مقاله پژوهشی

چکیده

مقدمه: سیگار مهمترین عامل قابل پیشگیری بسیاری از بیماری‌ها از جمله بدخیمی‌ها، بیماری‌های ریوی و قلبی عروقی است. امروزه از مشاوره رفتاری و دارودرمانی پزشکی برای ترک سیگار استفاده می‌شود. ترک سیگار تنها روش مؤثر برای کاهش سرعت کاهش حجم بازدم اجباری در یک ثانیه (FEV1) است. هدف مطالعه ما بررسی تغییرات حجم بازدم اجباری در یک ثانیه (FEV1) پس از ترک سیگار و ارتباط آن با ویژگی‌های جمعیتی برای افرادی است که به کلینیک ترک سیگار ما مراجعه کرده‌اند.

مواد و روش‌ها: ۱۱۴ فرد سیگاری (۴۸ مرد و ۶۶ زن) با میانگین سنی $48/36 \pm 10/49$ سال وارد مطالعه شدند و بر اساس سن در ۴ گروه کمتر از ۴۰ سال (گروه A)، ۴۱-۵۰ سال (گروه B)، ۵۱-۶۰ سال (گروه C)، بیشتر از ۶۰ سال (گروه D) طبقه بندی شدند و در روز اول، یک ماه بعد (دومین ویزیت) و ۳ ماه بعد (ویزیت سوم) تحت اسپرومتری قرار گرفتند.

یافته‌ها: افزایش معنی‌داری در مقادیر FEV1 در ویزیت دوم و سوم نسبت به اولین ویزیت در افراد سیگاری که سیگار را ترک کردند در گروه‌های A، B و C مشاهده شد ($p < 0/05$). علاوه بر این، کاهش معنی‌دار آماری در مقادیر FEV1 در ویزیت دوم و سوم نسبت به اولین ویزیت در سیگاری‌هایی که در گروه B، C و D به سیگار کشیدن ادامه دادند، مشاهده شد ($p < 0/05$).

نتیجه‌گیری: ترک سیگار با حمایت از آن منجر به بهبود مقادیر FEV1 در عرض ۳ ماه شد. بیشترین سود در افراد سیگاری زیر ۶۰ سال مشاهده شد.

واژگان کلیدی: حجم بازدم اجباری. ترک سیگار؛ مصرف سیگار؛ اسپرومتری

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