

## To findout prevalence of effect of opiumonpulmonary function tests in Western Rajasthan

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### Abstract

**Introduction-** Opium is one of the most common substance abuse in Asian countries. In this cross sectional study we clarify the effects of opium on respiratory system and possible mechanism of respiratory involvement. **Method:** The case control study was done on two groups of men between the ages of 30-50 years. The case group was of 100 opium addicts. The control group was of 100 healthy nonopium addicts. All of the 200 men underwent spirometry and the results compared with each other. **Result:** In the opium addicts the mean FVC was  $3.10 \pm 0.62$  L which is significantly lower than normal value (4.2 L in males). In controls, the mean FVC was  $3.60 \pm 0.54$  L. P value for FVC was  $<0.001$  which shows a significant

result statistically. In our study opium addicts mean FEV1 was  $2.93 \pm 0.57$  L which was near about normal than the standard normal values ruling out an obstructive defect. Mean values of FEV1/ FVC was  $94.0 \pm 0.13$  %, highly suggestive of restrictive pulmonary defects.

**Conclusion:** Opium abuse causes restrictive type of effect on pulmonary function.

**Key words:** opium addiction, pulmonary function test

### Introduction

Human beings have looked for substances or have practiced methods to make life more pleasurable and to avoid or decrease pain, discomforts and frustration. For this he looked for the subject around him especially the plant kingdom which leads to the discovery of many valuable medicinal plants like opium in China and Western Rajasthan. The primitive men know the psychotropic effects of such drugs. In rural areas of Western Rajasthan crude opium is consumed as a social custom by a notable proportion of population and its addiction is much widespread in areas of Western Rajasthan especially Jodhpur, Jalore, Jaisalmer, Barmher, Pali. Opium is consumed by most of the person in oral form. Opium and other opium derivatives exert their action by interacting with specific receptors example opioid receptors present in neurons in the central nervous system and in the peripheral tissues.<sup>1</sup>

Opioid receptors are:  $\mu$  (Mu) Receptor,  $\kappa$  (Kappa) Receptor,  $\delta$  (Delta) receptor. Opium which is extracted from the juice of poppy capsule (*Papaver somniferum*)<sup>2</sup> is used as raw material for synthesis of some medicines like morphine, Noscapine and Papaverin<sup>3</sup>. As we know in opium there are more than 20 alkaloids and 70 ingredients are present so their impact can be different in comparison to pure morphine, noscapine and papaverin<sup>4,5</sup>.

Opium is primary and continuous depressant of respiration at least in part by virtue of its direct effect on the brain stem respiratory centers. The respiratory depression is discernible even with doses too small to disturb consciousness and increases progressively as the dose is increased.

Therapeutic doses of opium depress all phase of respiratory activity (Rate, Minute volume & Tidal exchange). Respiratory difficulty occurs as a result of bronchoconstriction due to release of histamine by opium and its central effects. This study is aimed to find out prevalence of effect of opium on pulmonary function tests in the opium addicts in

western Rajasthan.

### Materials&methods

The present study was carried out at different villages situated in the different areas of Western Rajasthan and patients attending the outdoor and admitted in indoor Department of Medicine, Dr.S.N. Medical College, Jodhpur.

### StudyDesign:

The study was a cross-sectional study.

### Study population

Our study contained two groups of subjects belonging to western Rajasthan by geographical distribution-case and control groups. Case group contained opium addicts. All opium addicts were males and belonged to varied age groups and all were non-nicotine smokers. Healthy controls were selected on random basis from the people coming to the hospital as attendants of the patient after ruling out any significant respiratory diseases which might affect our study results. This study was planned to determine the effects of opium smoking on pulmonary function tests. The case-control study was done on two groups of men between the ages of 30 –50 years.

The case group was of 100 opium addicts. The control Group was of 100 healthy non opium addicts. All of the 200 men underwent spirometry and the results compared with each other.

### Inclusion criteria

Opium addicts who were non-nicotine smokers and with no cardiopulmonary illness.

### Exclusion criteria

1. Any cardiopulmonary illness likely to affect our results.
2. Subjects who had smoked nicotine during their lifetime
3. Subject who was unable to hold the mouthpiece of spirometer due to any local orol-lingual pathology

## RESULTS

Table 1. Duration of opium addiction.

Duration(yr)	Case	Percentage
0-5	21	21%
6-10	40	40%
11-15	19	19%
16-20	14	14%
> 20	6	6%

Table 2. Spirometric pattern in study population (duration of exposure).

Pattern	Opium addiction duration (years)					Control N=100
	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	> 20	
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Normal	19 (90.4 7 %)	16 (40% )	0	0	0	80 (80 %)
Mild	2	24	14	3	0	20

Restriction	(9.53%)	(60%)	(73.69%)	(21.42%)		(20%)
Moderate Restriction	0	0	5 (26.31%)	11 (78.58%)	3 (50%)	0
Mod to Severe Res.	0	0	0	0	1 (16.66%)	0
Mixed	0	0	0	0	2 (33.34%)	0

Table 3. FVC comparison in Relation to duration of Exposure to opium

	Control	A	B	C	D	E
		0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	> 20
Mean	3.61	3.62	3.29	2.91	2.55	1.96
S.D.	± 0.55	± 0.52	± 0.45	± 0.35	± 0.35	± 0.58
S.E.M		0.12	0.08	0.06	0.10	0.24
T		0.07	3.55	10.56	9.76	6.78
P		>0.9	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001

Table 4. FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC comparison in Relation to duration of Exposure to opium

	Control	A	B	C	D	E
		0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	> 20
Mean	0.93	0.93	0.92	0.96	1.04	0.96
S.D.	± 0.13	± 0.06	± 0.08	± 0.05	± 0.24	± 0.28
S.E.M		0.01	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.11
T		0	0.55	1.73	1.68	0.26
P		0	> 0.6	> 0.1	> 0.2	> 0.9

Majority of cases 40% from the 6-10 years of duration of opium addiction. Only 6% were from >20 years. (Table 1)

Spirometric pattern in opium addict in the 0-5 yrs of opium addiction was 90.47% have normal pattern and 9.53% have Mild-restrictive pattern.

In >20 yrs of opium addiction majority (50%) of opium addicts showed mod restrictive pattern followed by mod to severe restrictive pattern (16.66%) followed by mixed pattern (33.34%). Among control group dominant pattern was normal pattern in 80% followed by mild restriction in 20%. (Table 2)

Mean FVC in opium addict of 0-5 yrs duration was  $3.62 \pm 0.52$  with P value of > 0.9 which is statistically insignificant.

Mean FVC in opium addict of 6-10 yrs duration was  $3.29 \pm 0.45$  with a P value of < 0.001 which is statistically very significant. Mean FVC in opium addict of 11-15 yrs duration was  $2.91 \pm 0.35$  with a P value of < 0.001 which is statistically very significant. Mean FVC in opium addict of 16-20 yrs duration was  $2.55 \pm 0.35$  with a P value of < 0.001 which is statistically very significant. Mean FVC in opium addict > 20 yrs duration was  $1.96 \pm 0.58$  with P value

of  $<0.001$  which is statistically very significant. (Table 3) Mean  $FEV_1/FVC$  in opium addicts of 0-5 yrs duration was  $0.93 \pm 0.13$  with a P value of 0 which indicates there is no significant difference between study and control group. Mean  $FEV_1/FVC$  in opium addict of 6-10 yrs duration was  $0.92 \pm 0.08$  with a P value of  $> 0.6$  which indicates there is no significant difference between study and control group. Mean  $FEV_1/FVC$  in opium addict of 11-15 yrs duration was  $0.96 \pm 0.05$  with a P value of  $> 0.1$  which indicates there is no significant difference between study and control group. (Table 4)

## DISCUSSION

Our study population comprised a total of 200 subjects, 100 opium addicts and 100 controls. Among opium addicts, the majority (40 out of 100 i.e. 40%) of the study population belonged to the age group 41-50 yrs followed by 32% opium addicts from the age group 31-40 yrs. The mean age of opium addicts was  $39.31 \pm 8.65$  Yrs and that of the control group was  $40.19 \pm 7.97$  Yrs. This shows that our opium addict and control group were comparable in terms of age distribution. Duration of the exposure to opium addiction is the important determinant on the health of opium addicts. In the opium addiction majority of opium addicts were those to have been addicted for 6-10 yrs. There was a 6 opium addict of long duration of opium addiction i.e.  $>20$  yrs. Mean duration of opium addiction was  $10.24 \pm 5.66$  yrs. As discussed, the long duration of opium addiction was in insignificant numbers, significant effects on respiratory systems were found only in a small number of persons.

In the opium addicts the mean FVC was  $3.10 \pm 0.62$  L which is significantly lower than normal value (4.2L in males). In controls, the mean FVC was  $3.60 \pm 0.54$  L. P value for FVC was  $<0.001$  which shows a significant result statistically. In our study opium addicts mean  $FEV_1$

was  $2.93 \pm 0.57$  L which was near about normal than the standard normal values ruling out an obstructive defect. Mean values of  $FEV_1/FVC$  was  $94.0 \pm 0.13$  %, highly suggestive of **restrictive** pulmonary defects. In opium addicts, PEF<sub>R</sub> was found to be  $8.39 \pm 2.13$  L/sec with a mean % pred value of  $97.76 \pm 21.71$  %, both of these values being within normal values. For all the opium addicts (n=100) the mean value of FVC was  $3.10 \pm 0.62$  L with a control value of  $3.60 \pm 0.54$  with a P value of  $< 0.001$ . The P value for % pred  $FEV_1$  was also  $<0.001$ . This suggests there was a significant difference between the opium addicts and control population. This pattern of restrictive pulmonary defects suggests that opium addicts were having significant exposure to opium addiction leading to opium addiction related restrictive pulmonary changes. Mean cumulative value for  $FEV_1$  and % pred  $FEV_1$  was  $2.93 \pm 0.57$  L and  $89.65 \pm 14.47$  respectively. Both of these parameters are indicative of restrictive changes. Normal value of these parameters thus suggests that there were no obstructive airway changes among all the opium addicts.

PEF and FEF<sub>25-</sub>

75 (MMFR) were also within normal limits thus suggesting unlikely of an obstructive airway disease among the opium addicts. The p value for FEF<sub>25-75%</sub> and % pred FEF<sub>25-75%</sub> was  $> 0.5$  and  $>0.9$ . The value of  $FEV_1/FVC$ , which is an important indicator of differentiating restrictive and obstructive changes, was  $94.0 \pm 0.13$  L which is above normal standard value. This value is highly suggestive of a restrictive pulmonary pattern. P value of the same was  $>0.3$  which is suggestive of very insignificant difference between opium addict and control subjects.

The proper explanation for the same could also be improper effort on spirometry as the major limitation of the spirometry being the individual dependant procedure. Age wise analysis of the opium addict showed that mean values of the vital capacities (FVC and  $FEV_1$ ) were

maximum in the age group 21-30 yrs ( $3.49 \pm 0.45L$ ) and were declining with advancing age. These values were minimum in the age group  $>50$  yrs ( $2.11 \pm 0.57L$ ). This showed that there was a progressively declining trend of lung function with advancing age of the opium addicts. The mean values of FVC and %pred FVC were below the normal standard values among all the exposure group, suggesting that all the opium addicts were having restrictive pulmonary changes. The mean values of FEV1/FVC were above normal standard values among all the opium addicts suggesting that all of them were having restrictive pulmonary defects. Other parameters of spirometry suggesting obstructive airway changes were within normal limits, thus ruling out any smaller or larger airway obstructive changes in isolation. Analysis of the Spirometric pattern in opium addicts shows that most of the opium addicts had mild restrictive pattern followed by normal pattern and moderate restrictive pattern. Analysis of correlation coefficient of the study population shows that there was progressive decline in lung capacities (FVC & FEV1) with advancing age of opium addicts.

As far as we know no such previous study had been conducted in opium addicts so the results cannot be compared adequately. However the number of subjects in the present study was small ( $n=100$ ) so a large study is required to evaluate the results of the present study.

From the present study it is clear that statistically impairment of pulmonary functions occurs in opium addicts and the impairment increases with the duration of opium addiction. This study is consistent with some other studies.

## Conclusion

Mean total duration of exposure in opium addicts was  $10.24 \pm 5.66$  yrs. Mild restrictive pattern was most common in all the opium addicts, being observed in 43% and normal Spirometric pattern was observed in 24% of the study population. Moderate restrictive patterns were observed in 19% of the opium addicts. Obstructive pattern was not observed in the study population. Mixed Spirometric patterns were found only in 2% of the opium addicts.

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