

Supplementary Material

Material and Methods

Participants

The second phase of the INAsma was a cross-sectional, nationwide telephone interview study. Sample size calculations have been described in detail elsewhere ¹. All the participants of the first phase of the survey who answered positively to “Have you ever had asthma?” and at least one of the following in the last 12 months: “wheezing”, “waking with breathlessness”, “having an asthma attack” or “taking asthma medication”, were identified with possible asthma and were eligible for participation in the second phase. Only those willing to participate in this phase were contacted.

The study was approved by a Hospital Ethics Committee (*Comissão de Ética do Hospital de São João, Porto, Portugal*). All participants gave oral informed consent and were informed that they could abandon the study whenever they pleased, without any implication for their healthcare. Data confidentiality was guaranteed by storing personal information separately from the study data.

Data collection

The main instruments for data collection were the CARAT ² and mini-AQLQ ³. Additional questions were included for confirmation of the presence of current asthma and socio-educational variables. Only the adult participants with asthma answered mini-AQLQ.

A private company administered the questionnaire through Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) performed by trained and experienced interviewers. Interviews were conducted between June and October of 2010, mostly between 17:00–22:00 h in weekdays and 11:00–22:00 h in weekends and holidays. Each telephone number was not abandoned before a minimum of ten attempts in different occasions. The same quality measures followed in the first phase of the study were applied in the second phase.

References

1. Sa-Sousa A, Morais-Almeida M, Azevedo LF, Carvalho R, Jacinto T, Todo-Bom A, et al. Prevalence of asthma in portugal - the portuguese national asthma survey. *Clin Transl Allergy*. 2012; **2**: 15.
2. Fonseca JA, Nogueira-Silva L, Morais-Almeida M, Azevedo L, Sa-Sousa A, Branco-Ferreira M, et al. Validation of a questionnaire (carat10) to assess rhinitis and asthma in patients with asthma. *Allergy*. 2010; **65**: 1042-8.
3. Juniper EF, Guyatt GH, Cox FM, Ferrie PJ and King DR. Development and validation of the mini asthma quality of life questionnaire. *Eur Respir J*. 1999; **14**: 32-8.