INTERAIRWAYS
Interactions between the upper and lower airways

WHO Workshop, February 2007

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Overview

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Background

Interactions between lower and upper airways are well known:

- Allergic and non-allergic rhinitis and asthma.
- Occupational upper and lower airway diseases.
- Rhinosinusitis, nasal polyposis and lower airways diseases.
- Infections of the upper respiratory tract and lower airway diseases.
Guidelines and Position Papers exist, but they all have some defects:

- **Allergic and non-allergic rhinitis and asthma (1999)**
  - New recommendations are needed

- **Occupational upper and lower airway diseases**
  - No global document available

- **Rhinosinusitis, nasal polyposis and lower airways diseases**
  - AAAAI and EAACI Position Papers recently published but need of a more global view

- **Viral infections of the upper respiratory tract and asthma**
  - No global Position Paper is available
Goals of the Workshop

Interactions between lower and upper airways will be reviewed in order to:

- Develop an evidence-based global document on a key problem of respiratory medicine including diagnosis, epidemiology, common risk factors, management and prevention.

- Propose education materials for health care professionals and the patients.

- Meet GARD objectives.

- Focus particularly on CRD prevention.

- Highlight gaps in our knowledge, in particular in developing countries.
The final document will:

- Update existing fragmented documents (e.g. ARIA, rhinosinusitis documents).

- Develop new documents on current gaps in our knowledge (e.g. occupational airways diseases, upper and lower airway infections).
A WHO Workshop will be organized by WHO/HQ in conjunction with the AAAAI Annual Meeting in San Diego.

Duration: 2 days