Does COPD Knowledge Translate into Timely Help-seeking?

IMPERIAL

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Background

COPD is a major global cause of morbidity and mortality, and India has the second highest number of cases globally with over 55 million cases, and for the third highest amount of death rates of 108.3 deaths per 100,000.

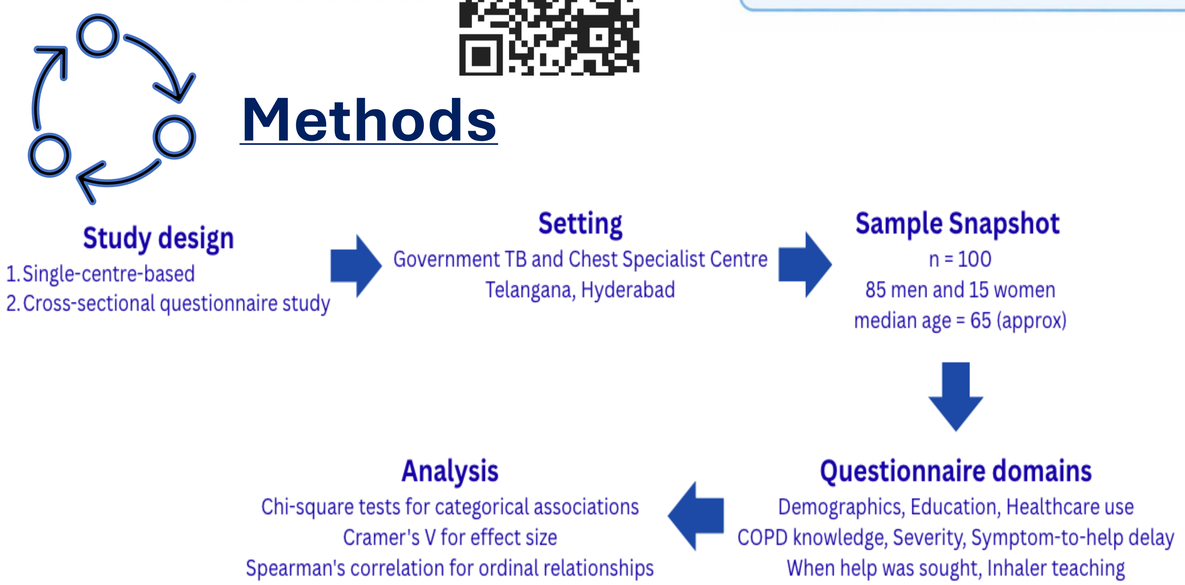
Delayed help-seeking during symptom worsening may worsen outcomes, and health literacy may influence this process. COPD was selected Because of its high burden and the relevance of health literacy and help-seeking delay.

Aim

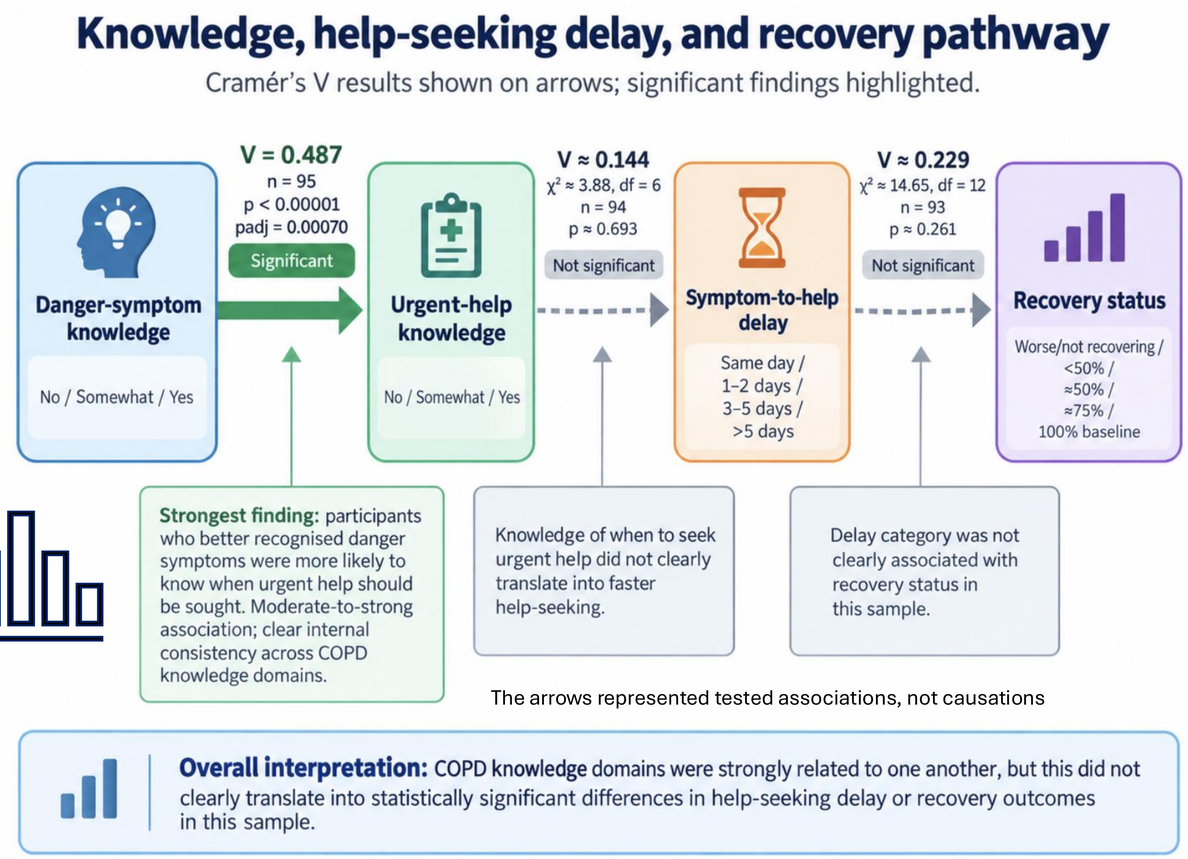
To examine associations between COPD knowledge domains and symptom-to-help delay.

Scan for references :

Methods



Results



Discussion



A patient may:
1)recognise a serious symptom
2)know urgent help is needed
3)and still not seek help quickly

because other things may get in the way such as decision making, confidence, access to services, mobility, personal or social issues.

Conclusion

- Patients may understand symptoms and urgency, but this may not lead to faster help-seeking.
- A **key strength of the study** is exploring the relationship between **knowledge, behaviour, and outcomes** within the dataset using categorical analyses, such as **Chi-square tests**, **Cramér's V**, and **Spearman's correlation** where relevant.
- Findings should be interpreted cautiously because the study was: **Single-centre with one healthcare system, cross-sectional and retrospective.**
- Future interventions : **practical coaching sessions, teach back education, clinician coaching, dedicated emergency team, telephone line, and improved communication between different levels of health systems.**

Future plans : Repeat the same study in the UK, expand study to more centers across India, include both government and private health care systems, and to compare differences between developing and developed country's system.