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Access to respiratory rehabilitation in France: Opinions of pulmonologists and people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

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Abstract

Despite its well-known benefits, respiratory rehabilitation (RR) remains underutilized among people with chronic obstructive lung disease (COPD) due to both patient- and physician-related barriers. This qualitative study (October 2023–March 2024) used two questionnaires: one for people with COPD to assess disease severity and access challenges, and another for pulmonologists to identify prescription obstacles. Distributed via associations and mailing lists, the survey reached 3,000 people with COPD and 500 pulmonologists, revealing shared concerns about facility shortages, poor information, and transportation issues. Enhancing RR access through better training, patient education, and expanded facilities should be a public health priority.

Keywords: Access barriers; Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; Comorbidities; Pulmonologist; Respiratory rehabilitation.

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