

ABSTRACT

Approximately 15% of chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases are work-related and that new agent causing it as occupational exposure to dusts, chemicals and gases. **The aim** of the present study was to screen and study risk factors for chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases among textile workers in Shebin Elkom. **A descriptive design** was utilized in this study. **A Convenience sample** was used, and it composed of 221 workers who match the criteria; nonsmokers, had experience more than 10 years, accept to participate in the study. **Three tools** were utilized; 1- an interviewing questionnaire composed of 3 parts; socio-demographic characteristics, medical history, and clinical questionnaire of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, 2- An observational checklist for use of personal protective devices, 3- An environmental safety checklist. **The results** of the present study showed that the prevalence of the respiratory symptoms among the studied workers was dyspnea with exertion 33%, followed by whitish sputum 27.6%, wheezes characterized by persistency and increase with chest diseases 25.8% and cough not affected by the weather 30.8%. Based on the clinical manifestations the prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases among studied workers was 22.6%. None of the studied workers used the personal protective equipment due to non availability. **This study concluded** that advancing age, duration of exposure, department, non usage of personal protective equipment, practicing exercises and educational level seen as major factors that affecting the prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases. **The present study recommended** that further researches needed to produce more accurate estimate of prevalence and incidence of chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases.

Key words: screening, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, textile industry