



ELSEVIER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Early detection of COPD: the role of spirometry

I have to agree completely with this article [1]. It is essential to diagnose COPD early and drastically affects treatment outcomes. It is very simple to do spirometry using simple equipment. In most of the hospitals where I worked the nursing staff and the doctors undertook this function. It may not be as accurate as spirometric testing conducted by respiratory technicians but it definitely gives a baseline idea of lung function values. As an effective and cheap diagnostic tool, I think all the general practitioners should undertake spirometric testing as a preliminary investigation rather than depend-

ing on the overburdened hospital for this simple test.

References

- [1] Early detection of COPD: the role of spirometry. *Prim Care Resp J* 2003;12(3):90–3.

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