



Volume 1, issue 2

Newsletter IRW study

An update from the IRW-team!



Dear reader,

The researchers involved in the IRW study have been very busy during the last months. We would like to present to you the progress of the project.

Rationale for the IRW project

Recent publications in international journals emphasize the importance and clinical relevance of the IRW project. The following quote from the ERJ is very illustrative

'I believe that the heart of the inhaler technique problem lies within the attitudes and perceptions of the patient and probably the healthcare providers. Unless we start to explore this hypothesis and reconceptualise the role of inhaler technique in disease management, we might still have the same problems in the years to come.'

The impact of poor inhalation technique on the economic burden of asthma and COPD has been studied in Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. 2.2% to 2.7% (€105 million) of direct asthma and COPD costs are due to poor inhalation technique. This stresses the need for effective interventions.

State of the art of the IRW study

Based on the publications above, the IRW study is pivotal! We made progress and several milestones were achieved.

IRW literature review

The aim of the review is to reveal and summarize useful theories, frameworks and models for the development of the most optimal method of inhaler technique education. Inhaler technique is considered as a **motor skill** and can be improved with the application of learning theories about motor skills. Many different theories have been revealed and research from different areas will be included. The review will be finished June 2017.

Perspectives of Dutch healthcare providers (HCP)

Focus group meetings and a questionnaire for triangulation to investigate the experiences and opinions of HCP involved in the management of asthma and COPD with regard to inhaler technique education. The results revealed lack of uniformity and (organizational) difficulties with regard to inhaler technique education. In conclusion, the optimal content of inhaler technique education needs to be elaborated. Moreover, time, appropriate training of HCP and fine-tuning the cooperation between HCP are considered crucial in order to optimize inhaler technique and subsequently the management of asthma and COPD.

Perspectives of patients and healthcare providers in Spain and Greece

Spanish and Greek patients have been interviewed and relevant information with regard to their experiences, views and beliefs with regard to inhaler instructions has been collected. In Spain healthcare providers have been asked for their experiences and views during a focus group meeting.

The IRW conference

We are organizing the first international IRW conference, including useful training sessions regarding inhaler technique, in Groningen, the Netherlands. Would you please save the date (29 November—1 December 2017). Further details to be announced. We would welcome your financial support. <http://www.irwstudy.com/irw-conference-interest-form/>

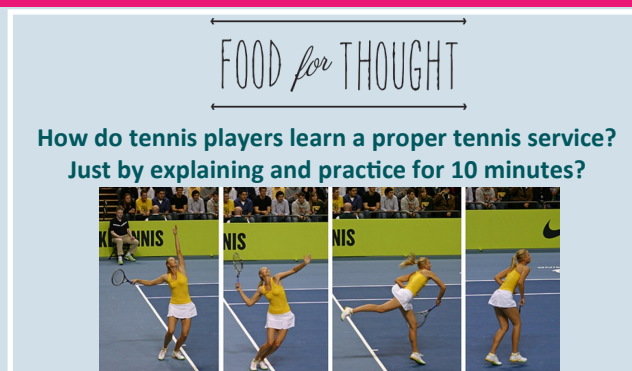


Marije, Hester and Vera –medical students- finished their projects successfully. Thanks for your cooperation and time

Dissemination of our results

* 4 IRW abstracts have been presented during the CAHAG conference in January 2017 in Utrecht

* The results from the focus groups with professionals and an overview of the IRW project will be presented with a poster at the Longdagen (April 12th 2017)



For more information: please visit our website at www.irwstudy.com
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