ASSESSMENT OF RESPIRATORY FUNCTION IN THE CLEANING STAFF OF THE THIES REGIONAL HOSPITAL (SENEGAL): VENTILATORY ASPECTS.

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INTRODUCTION:
The hospital environment is not only occupied by the medical profession. There are also the surface technicians who take care of the maintenance of the premises which are often polluted with medical consumables. Their low level of education and their approach to following standard precautions, including the use of equipment, is generally poor and rudimentary. Their health and safety are neglected. In Senegal, the profession of surface technician is practiced with a lack of respect for the recommended health precautions. The aim of our work was to study ventilatory disorders (VD) among cleaning staff at the Thies regional hospital (Senegal).

MATERIAL AND METHODS:
We carried out a descriptive cross-sectional study with forty cleaning agents which included a medical survey. All subjects had received a spirometric test. Obstructive syndrome was mentioned on the basis: FEV₁/FVC<70% and FEV₁<80% of the theoretical value. Restrictive syndrome was defined on the basis of a decrease in FVC<80% of the theoretical value and a FEV₁/FVC ratio>95%.

RESULTS:

Figure 1: distribution according to the different ventilatory disorders

Figure 2: frequency of asthma in our population

DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION:
The cleaning activity, in particular in a hospital environment, generates significant ventilatory disorders, suggesting that exposures linked to cleaning activities may constitute a risk for long-term respiratory health. These employees need more adequate training and regular support on the prevention of harmful exposure to the respiratory tract during cleaning activities.