PECULIARITIES OF FUNCTIONAL CHANGES OF LUNGS DEPENDING ON PNEUMOCONIOSIS CATEGORY

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Examination of 543 miners from Ukraine coal mines with diagnosis of coal worker pneumoconiosis (CWP) according to ILO 2000 classification and 187 miners of control group without lung disease revealed obstructive changes only in patients with developed stage of CWP. In miners with early stages of disease after spirometry the pulmonary function indices were normal.

Highly informative method for diagnostics of lung function impairment in CWP was bodyplethysmography with static lung volumes (RV, ITGV, TLC) and diffusing capacity of alveolar-capillary membrane (DLCO by single inspiration with CO) evaluations. A relationship between above mentioned indices reduction and radiological stage of CWP pneumoconiosis was revealed. These indices may be used for diagnostics of lung function impairment in the early stage of the disease.