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X Garfield, M.S.

Pub 25-275,  
SMD

The Medical Post  
Toronto, Ontario  
October 7, 1980

10/7/80

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**Smoking leads  
to FEV<sub>1</sub> drop,  
study indicates**

WASHINGTON — Longitudinal data from a random, stratified-cluster population sample studied by researchers at the Arizona Health Science Center, Tucson, shows most men with a steady decline of FEV<sub>1</sub> were current or former smokers.

Dr. M.S. Garfield, in a report to the annual meeting of the Canadian and American Thoracic Societies, said the study identified 62 people with steady declines in FEV<sub>1</sub>, two-thirds of them male, which were far greater than the normal average fall. Most of the males were in the 45-to-76-year-old age group, and almost all were current or former smokers.

In contrast, the age distribution of those with rapid falls among women matched those among the general population. In addition, it was found 50 per cent of the women never smoked, which is a rate similar to the general population.

Dr. Garfield said in the initial survey year, smoking, age and sex corrected frequencies of cough, phlegm, wheeze and dyspnea on exertion in the rapid fallers was the same as the general population. However, the latest survey year shows an excess of dyspnea on exertion, wheeze and shortness of breath in the males, and only of wheezing in the females.

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