

questionnaires may not always provide precise data due to recall bias. Third, because we performed only a simple pulmonary function test to detect airflow limitation in the community-dwelling elderly in our study, we were not able to examine pulmonary function in detail. Fourth, because this study was cross-sectional, a cause-effect relationship between SMI and pulmonary function remains unknown. Further investigations, including prospective studies, are required to confirm our discussion.

## **Conclusions**

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study to investigate the physiological characteristics of community-dwelling elderly Japanese with airflow limitation aged  $\geq 65$  years. We found a significant reduction in SMI in subjects with airflow limitation compared with healthy elderly subjects. Furthermore, we found a significant correlation between SMI and pulmonary function in men with airflow limitation, but not in women. Additional studies are needed for the early detection of subjects with airflow limitation and to determine the characteristics of community-dwelling elderly Japanese, aged  $\geq 65$  years, with airflow limitation.

## **Conflict of interest statement**

None of the authors have conflicts of interest or financial disclosures.

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