	Asthma (n = 394,160)	COPD (n = 77,749)	Asthma and COPD (n = 23,345)
Mean age, year (SD)	28.9 (24.7)	72.8 (9.8)	71.7 (10.9)
Male	50.6%	47.5%	38.5%
Severity			
Mild/moderate/severe/very severe	61.4%/34.9%/	42.8%/	23.0%/44.3%/
	3.6%/0%	38.8%/	27.7%/5.0%
		16.0%/2.4%	
Mean Charlson Comorbidity index (SD)	1.3 (1.1)	3.0 (2.2)	2.9 (2.2)
Treatments (used by \geq 20% patients in			
any group)			
Short-acting beta-agonists	69.8%	45.1%	61.6%
LABA	8.9%	16.5%	20.2%
Long-acting muscarinic-antagonist	2.2%	71.6%	50.7%
ICS	53.5%	16.5%	27.6%
Fixed ICS/LABA combinations	34.9%	57.5%	68.3%
Antibiotics	13.8%	33.3%	37.0%
Oral steroids	20.9%	32.4%	43.1%
Comorbidities that can affect inhaler			
handling (observed in \geq 10% patients in			
any group)			
Any	15.8%	50.4%	55.3%
Heart failure	2.0%	21.8%	22.9%
Stroke	1.6%	10.8%	9.7%
Sleep disorders	3.8%	7.2%	10.5%
Depression or anxiety	8.1%	14.4%	17.7%
Osteoporosis	1.2%	7.7%	10.2%

COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; ICS, inhaled corticosteroids; LABA, long-acting beta-agonists; SD, standard deviation.

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2-YEAR FOLLOW-UP OF COPD PATIENTS IN THE NON-INTERVENTIONAL 'REAL-LIFE' DACCORD STUDY IN GERMANY

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Introduction Although randomised, controlled trials are important in the development of new pharmacological treatments, they provide limited information on the 'real life' management of chronic diseases. Here, we analysed two-year follow-up data from the prospective, non-interventional, observational DAC-CORD study to evaluate the frequency of exacerbations and the evolution of disease severity using GOLD 2011 categorization. Methods COPD out-patients were recruited into DACCORD following either a change or initiation of COPD maintenance medication and followed up for 2 years. Data of 3137 patients that completed the 2-year follow-up were analysed; Exacerbation data were collected from the 6 months prior to study entry (baseline), and every 3 months for 2 years after entry; COPD symptoms were evaluated using the COPD Assessment Test (CAT) at baseline as well as the 1 year and 2 year visit.

Results In this cohort the non-exacerbating phenotype was stable with a total of 69.4% of patients without exacerbations in the 6 months prior to baseline not reporting any exacerbation over the full 2 year follow-up period resulting in an annual exacerbation rate of 0.263 in year 1 and 0.251 in year 2. In contrast, patients with at least one exacerbations in the 6 months prior to baseline showed an annual exacerbation rate of 0.770 in year 1 and 0.633 in year 2. At baseline 44.6% of patients were categorised as GOLD D, one third of these due to their exacerbation history alone. In Year 1 there was a general shift to lower risk categories compared to baseline (GOLD D: 44.6% vs. 31.1%) mainly due to a lower number of exacerbations in Year 1. Overall, categorization then remained relatively stable from Year 1 (GOLD D = 31.1%) to Year 2 (GOLD D = 32.1%).

Conclusions Although, COPD is generally considered to be a progressive disease, this analysis of 'real life' data over an observational period of 2 years shows that the 'non-*exacerbating' phenotype is relatively stable. The data furthermore confirms that exacerbations in the recent history increase the risk of future exacerbations.

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THE DISTRIBUTION OF BLOOD EOSINOPHIL COUNT IN A COPD CLINICAL TRIALS DATABASE: COMPARING THE UK WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD

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Introduction There is accumulating evidence that blood eosinophil count may have predictive value for those individuals with COPD who are more likely to respond to an inhaled corticosteroid in terms of exacerbation reduction and there is evidence that higher blood eosinophil count can also have some predictive value for those at risk of exacerbations. Blood eosinophil counts are known to be raised in a number of conditions including allergies and parasitic or fungal infections. It is therefore possible that the blood eosinophil count would vary between countries and thus influence their predictive value. We have investigated the distribution of blood eosinophil counts in the UK in comparison with blood eosinophil counts worldwide from data in the GSK clinical trials database.

Methods In this post-hoc analysis, the following criteria were used to select studies for consistency with analyses conducted to examine the effects of inhaled corticosteroids on outcomes: global, randomised, double-blind, parallel-group clinical trials in COPD of at least 24 weeks' duration that included any of fluticasone propionate (FP), fluticasone furoate (FF), salmeterol/FP or FF/vilanterol (VI) as a randomised study drug and a non-steroidcontaining arm and for which subjects had a pre-randomisation blood sample taken for eosinophils. 1,2 Individual subjects' prerandomisation eosinophil counts from countries that recruited at least 100 subjects across all trials were pooled to form the global sample (Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Korea, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States). Individual subjects' pre-randomisation eosinophil counts for subjects in the UK were pooled to form the UK sample. An empirical cumulative distribution function (CDF) for the UK sample was overlaid on an empirical CDF plot for the global sample.

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