entry. Taking into account airflow limitation, COPD symptoms and exacerbation history, 41.5% of patients were categorised as GOLD D. Prior to study entry 1271 patients did not receive COPD maintenance treatment and ICS was withdrawn from 1307 patients. 86.9% of patients with an exacerbation history in the LABA/LAMA-FDC treatment group did not receive additional ICS while 58.5% of patients with an exacerbation history, 41.5% of patients were categorised as GOLD C. Prior to study entry 1271 patients did not receive COPD maintenance treatment and ICS was withdrawn from 1307 patients. 86.9% of patients with an exacerbation history in the LABA/LAMA-FDC treatment group did not receive additional ICS while 58.5% of patients with an exacerbation history, 41.5% of patients were categorised as GOLD C.

Conclusions The population recruited has a broad range of disease severity, with a baseline CAT and mMRC mean score suggesting a relatively high degree of symptoms. COPD progression and exacerbations will be recorded over the next 2 years and analysed in relation to the received maintenance medication, which will provide valuable real-life data on the use LABA/LAMA FDCs in daily practice in patients with or without an exacerbation history.

REFERENCE

Breezhaler® (BH) device (Novartis) and the Respimat® (RM) device (Boehringer Ingelheim) assessing each against a number of handling-related device attributes and against each other, to reveal their preferred device.

**Method**
240 maintenance device-naive respondents across Australia, Brazil, Germany and Japan handled each device in a randomised order. Prior to handling the devices, participants ranked 22 handling-related device attributes according to their perception of importance for use. Participants familiarised themselves with the correct handling procedure for each device by consulting relevant ‘Instructions for Use’ and short training videos.

After device-handling, participants indicated their level of agreement with pre-defined handling attributes on a 7-point scale from ‘I do not agree at all’ to ‘I completely agree’. In addition and after having handled both devices, participants expressed their level of agreement with the attributes of each device.

**Abstract Figure 1**
Assessment of the devices against 22 devices handling-related attributes

*The Top 2 box score encompasses participants who had a high level of agreement, that is, they either ‘fully agreed’ (≥7) or ‘agreed’ (≥6).