SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Supplementary tables

Table S1. Diagnoses and medicines used for definition of comorbidities and outcomes

Table S2. Definition of medications

Table S3. Definition of beta-blocker dosage categorization

Table S4. Usage of beta-blockers following MI

Table S5. Baseline characteristics according to type of MI and presence of heart failure

Table S6. Dosage of beta-blockers used in patients with COPD following MI

Table S7. Types of beta-blockers used in patients with COPD following MI

Table S8. Baseline characteristics according to presence of complete clinical data from Danish Register of COPD and high-risk patients with a history of frequent exacerbations and triple inhalation therapy

Table S9. Clinical characteristics of 1,118 patients with complete clinical data from Danish Register of COPD

Table S10. Usage of secondary prevention medications within 90 days after MI

Supplementary figures

Figure S1. Directed acyclic graph (DAG) for identification of potential confounders

Table S1. Diagnoses and medicines used for definition of comorbidities and outcomes

Disease	Definition
Myocardial infarction	ICD10: I21; ICD8: 410
ST elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI)	ICD10: I210B, I211B, I213
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	ICD10: J42–J44; ICD8: 491–492
Hospital admission with exacerbation of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	ICD10 J44 as primary diagnosis; or J44 as secondary diagnosis along with a primary diagnosis of DJ96 or DJ13–DJ18
Heart failure	ICD10: I110, I42, I50, J81
Atrial fibrillation	ICD10: I48
Angina pectoris	ICD10: I20
Hypertension	ICD10: I10–I15
Peripheral vascular disease	ICD10: I700, I702, I709, I739
Cerebrovascular disease	ICD10: I60–I64, G458, G459
Diabetes mellitus	ICD10: E10–14; or ATC: A10
Renal failure	ICD10: I120, I131, I132, E102, E112, E132, E142, N02–N08, N11, N14, N158, N159, N160, N162-N164, N168, N18, N19, N26, Z992
Depression	ICD10: F32–34; or ATC: N06A
Asthma	ICD10: J45
Cancer	ICD10: C00–C97

ICD10: 10th revision of the International Classification of Diseases system.

ICD8: 8th revision of the International Classification of Diseases system.

ATC: Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical Classification System.

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Table S2. Definition of medications

Drugs	ATC code
Beta-blockers	C07
Oral corticosteroids	H02AB06
Long acting inhalation medication	Mono, dual, triple therapy corresponds to the usage of one, two or three of the medicines listed below.
Long-acting beta-2-agonists	R03AC1; R03AL03-R03AL06
Long-acting muscarinic antagonists	R03BB; R03AL03-R03AL06
Inhaled corticosteroids	R03BA; R03AK

ATC: Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical Classification System

Table S3. Definition of beta-blocker dosage categorization.

Doses were categorized into thirds of the recommended maximum dosis for each type of beta-blocker, i.e. low dose (minimum dose to 33% of maximum dose), medium dose (>33% to 67%), and high dose (>67% to maximum dose). Uncommon beta-blocker types were not included in the analysis due to negligible low number of users.

Beta-blocker	Dosage category	Definition of daily dosage
Metoprolol	Low	12.5 - 67 mg
	Medium	68 - 133 mg
	High	134 - 200 mg
Carvedilol	Low	3.125 - 33 mg
	Medium	34 - 67 mg
	High	68 - 100 mg
Bisoprolol	Low	1.25 - 6.7 mg
	Medium	6.8 - 13.3 mg
	High	13.4 - 20 mg
Atenolol	Low	12.5 - 33 mg
	Medium	34 - 67 mg
	High	68 - 100 mg
Sotalol	Low	40 - 213 mg
	Medium	214 - 427 mg
	High	428 - 640 mg
Propranolol	Low	5 - 107 mg
	Medium	108 - 213 mg
	High	214 - 320 mg

Table S4. Usage of beta-blockers in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease following first-time myocardial infarction.

Numbers represent the point prevalence of beta-blocker users among patients alive and free of exacerbations at the specified times during follow-up estimated by claimed prescriptions.

Time	Subjects alive (n)	Beta-blocker users	
Day 1	10,884	3,298	(30.3%)
Day 90	7,217	4,693	(65.0%)
6 months	6,159	3,752	(60.9%)
1 year	4,868	2,994	(61.5%)
5 years	1,263	734	(58.1%)
10 years	222	113	(50.9%)

Table S5. Baseline characteristics of patients according to type of myocardial infarction and presence of heart failure following first-time myocardial infarction (MI) from 2003 to 2015.

Characteristic	Type of myocardial infarction			Heart failure at baseline		
	STEMI	NSTEMI	P value	Yes	No	P value
N	1255	9633		3612	7276	
Age, median (IQR)	72 (64, 80)	75 (68, 82)	<0.0001	77 (70, 82)	74 (67, 81)	<0.0001
Sex						
Male	728 (58.0%)	4934 (51.2%)	<0.0001	1949 (54.0%)	3713 (51.0%)	0.0040
Frequent exacerbations	277 (22.1%)	2872 (29.8%)	<0.0001	1063 (29.4%)	2086 (28.7%)	0.41
Long-acting inhalation therapy						
None	518 (41.3%)	3517 (36.5%)	0.0018	1461 (40.4%)	2574 (35.4%)	<0.0001
Mono	167 (13.3%)	1202 (12.5%)		428 (11.8%)	941 (12.9%)	
Dual	316 (25.2%)	2628 (27.3%)		957 (26.5%)	1987 (27.3%)	
Triple	254 (20.2%)	2286 (23.7%)		766 (21.2%)	1774 (24.4%)	
Type of myocardial infarction						
ST-segment elevation MI (STEMI)	1255 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	<0.0001	387 (10.7%)	868 (11.9%)	0.0615
Non-STEMI	0 (0.0%)	9633 (100.0%)		3225 (89.3%)	6408 (88.1%)	
Comorbidities						
Heart failure	387 (30.8%)	3225 (33.5%)	0.0615	3612 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	<0.0001
Atrial fibrillation	188 (15.0%)	2261 (23.5%)	<0.0001	1156 (32.0%)	1293 (17.8%)	<0.0001
Angina pectoris	197 (15.7%)	2642 (27.4%)	<0.0001	1063 (29.4%)	1776 (24.4%)	<0.0001
Hypertension	491 (39.1%)	4339 (45.0%)	<0.0001	1839 (50.9%)	2991 (41.1%)	<0.0001
Diabetes mellitus	184 (14.7%)	2027 (21.0%)	<0.0001	950 (26.3%)	1261 (17.3%)	<0.0001
Peripheral vascular disease	123 (9.8%)	1399 (14.5%)	<0.0001	629 (17.4%)	893 (12.3%)	<0.0001
Cerebrovascular disease	126 (10.0%)	1314 (13.6%)	0.0004	577 (16.0%)	863 (11.9%)	<0.0001
Cancer	149 (11.9%)	1387 (14.4%)	0.0156	503 (13.9%)	1033 (14.2%)	0.70
Chronic kidney disease	62 (4.9%)	797 (8.3%)	<0.0001	433 (12.0%)	426 (5.9%)	<0.0001
Asthma	160 (12.7%)	1246 (12.9%)	0.85	459 (12.7%)	947 (13.0%)	0.65
Depression	235 (18.7%)	2353 (24.4%)	<0.0001	898 (24.9%)	1690 (23.2%)	0.0592

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Table S6. Dosage of beta-blockers used in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) following first-time myocardial infarction.

Numbers represent the point prevalence of users of each beta-blocker dosage among patients alive and free of exacerbations of COPD at the specified times during follow-up. Numbers were estimated by claimed prescriptions. Uncommon beta-blockers were not included in the analysis due to negligible low number of users, and therefore the sum of users do not add up to the total number of beta-blocker users as shown in Table S5.

Time	Dosage	Beta-blocker users n(%)	
Day 1	Low	2190	(67.1%)
	Medium	800	(24.5%)
	High	274	(8.4%)
Day 90	Low	2816	(60.3%)
	Medium	1470	(31.5%)
	High	384	(8.2%)
6 months	Low	2218	(59.6%)
	Medium	1153	(31.0%)
	High	351	(9.4%)
1 year	Low	1702	(57.3%)
	Medium	972	(32.7%)
	High	296	(10.0%)
5 years	Low	363	(49.9%)
	Medium	278	(38.2%)
	High	87	(12.0%)
10 years	Low	57	(50.9%)
	Medium	40	(35.7%)
	High	15	(13.4%)

Table S7. Types of beta-blockers used in patients with COPD following first-time myocardial infarction.
Numbers represent the point prevalence of users of each beta-blocker type among patients alive and free of exacerbations of COPD at the specified times during follow-up. Numbers were estimated by claimed prescriptions.

Time	Beta-blocker category	Beta-blocker type	Number of users n(%)	
Day 1	Beta-1-selective	Metoprolol	2,300	(69.7%)
		Bisoprolol	383	(11.6%)
		Atenolol	97	(2.9%)
	Non-selective	Carvedilol	333	(10.1%)
		Propranolol	114	(3.5%)
		Sotalol	37	(1.1%)
		Other	34	(1.0%)
Day 90	Beta-1-selective	Metoprolol	3,562	(75.9%)
		Bisoprolol	522	(11.1%)
		Atenolol	49	(1.0%)
	Non-selective	Carvedilol	484	(10.3%)
		Propranolol	40	(0.9%)
		Sotalol	13	(0.3%)
		Other	23	(0.5%)
6 months	Beta-1-selective	Metoprolol	2,734	(72.9%)
		Bisoprolol	431	(11.5%)
		Atenolol	45	(1.2%)
	Non-selective	Carvedilol	464	(12.4%)
		Propranolol	36	(1.0%)
		Sotalol	12	(0.3%)
		Other	30	(0.8%)
1 year	Beta-1-selective	Metoprolol	2,174	(72.6%)
		Bisoprolol	329	(11.0%)
		Atenolol	37	(1.2%)
	Non-selective	Carvedilol	394	(13.2%)
		Propranolol	29	(1.0%)
		Sotalol	7	(0.2%)
		Other	24	(0.8%)
5 years	Beta-1-selective	Metoprolol	525	(71.5%)
		Bisoprolol	75	(10.2%)
		Atenolol	9	(1.2%)
	Non-selective	Carvedilol	112	(15.3%)
		Propranolol	5	(0.7%)
		Sotalol	2	(0.3%)
		Other	6	(0.8%)
10 years	Beta-1-selective	Metoprolol	79	(69.8%)
		Bisoprolol	14	(12.4%)
		Atenolol	3	(2.7%)
	Non-selective	Carvedilol	14	(12.4%)
		Propranolol	1	(0.9%)
		Sotalol	1	(0.9%)
		Other	1	(0.9%)

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Table S8. Baseline characteristics of patients according to presence of complete clinical data from Danish Register of COPD, and a history of frequent exacerbations and triple inhalation therapy following first-time myocardial infarction (MI) from 2003 to 2015.

Characteristic	Complete clinical data from Danish Register of COPD			History of frequent exacerbations and triple therapy		
	Yes	No	*P* value	Yes	No	*P* value
N	1118	9766		1358	9526	
Age, median (IQR)	74 (67, 80)	75 (68, 82)	0.0006	75 (68, 81)	75 (67, 82)	0.46
Sex						
Male	537 (48.0%)	5122 (52.4%)	0.0051	590 (43.4%)	5069 (53.2%)	<0.0001
Frequent exacerbations	563 (50.4%)	2585 (26.5%)	<0.0001	1358 (100.0%	1790 (18.8%)	<0.0001
Long-acting inhalation therapy						
None	125 (11.2%)	3909 (40.0%)	<0.0001	0 (0.0%)	4034 (42.3%)	<0.0001
Mono	101 (9.0%)	1267 (13.0%)		0 (0.0%)	1368 (14.4%)	
Dual	236 (21.1%)	2707 (27.7%)		0 (0.0%)	2943 (30.9%)	
Triple	656 (58.7%)	1883 (19.3%)		1358 (100.0%	1181 (12.4%)	
Type of myocardial infarction						
ST-segment elevation MI (STEMI)	130 (11.6%)	1125 (11.5%)	0.91	120 (8.8%)	1135 (11.9%)	0.0009
Non-STEMI	988 (88.4%)	8641 (88.5%)		1238 (91.2%)	8391 (88.1%)	
Comorbidities						
Heart failure	369 (33.0%)	3241 (33.2%)	0.90	406 (29.9%)	3204 (33.6%)	0.0062
Atrial fibrillation	270 (24.2%)	2179 (22.3%)	0.16	279 (20.5%)	2170 (22.8%)	0.0650
Angina pectoris	328 (29.3%)	2509 (25.7%)	0.0085	319 (23.5%)	2518 (26.4%)	0.0208
Hypertension	580 (51.9%)	4248 (43.5%)	<0.0001	574 (42.3%)	4254 (44.7%)	0.0974
Diabetes mellitus	218 (19.5%)	1993 (20.4%)	0.47	226 (16.6%)	1985 (20.8%)	0.0003
Peripheral vascular disease	166 (14.8%)	1354 (13.9%)	0.37	173 (12.7%)	1347 (14.1%)	0.16
Cerebrovascular disease	134 (12.0%)	1305 (13.4%)	0.20	139 (10.2%)	1300 (13.6%)	0.0005
Cancer	172 (15.4%)	1362 (13.9%)	0.19	186 (13.7%)	1348 (14.2%)	0.65
Chronic kidney disease	82 (7.3%)	776 (7.9%)	0.47	69 (5.1%)	789 (8.3%)	<0.0001
Asthma	200 (17.9%)	1206 (12.3%)	<0.0001	254 (18.7%)	1152 (12.1%)	<0.0001
Depression	310 (27.7%)	2278 (23.3%)	0.0011	377 (27.8%)	2211 (23.2%)	0.0002

Table S9. Clinical characteristics of 1,118 patients with complete clinical data from Danish Register of Chronic obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

FEV1% = forced expiratory volume in 1 secund expressed as percentage of predicted; GOLD = Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease; mMRC = modified Medical Research Council; BMI = body mass index.

Characteristic	Value
N	1,118
FEV_1%, median (IQR)	46 (33, 61)
GOLD class	
1	71 (6.4%)
2	417 (37.3%)
3	423 (37.8%)
4	207 (18.5%)
mMRC dyspnoea score	
0-1	327 (29.2%)
2	350 (31.3%)
3	256 (22.9%)
4	185 (16.5%)
BMI	
10 - 18.4	115 (10.3%)
18.5 - 24.9	456 (40.8%)
25+	547 (48.9%)
Smoking status	
Non smoker	754 (67.4%)
Smoker	364 (32.6%)

Table S10. Usage of secondary prevention medications within 90 days after first-time myocardial infarction in patients with COPD. Numbers represent the numbers and proportions of users among 7,217 patients alive and free of exacerbations at 90 days of follow-up. Medication use was defined as one or more claimed prescription.
AECi = angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB = angiotensin II receptor blocker.

Medication	Number of users, n(%)	
Aspirin	5,104	(70.7%)
Statin	5,571	(77.2%)
Aspirin + statin	4,251	(58.9%)
Aspirin + statin + beta-blocker	3,079	(42.7%)
ACEi or ARB	3,776	(52.3%)
AECi or ARB + beta-blocker	2,637	(36.5%)

Figure S1. Directed acyclic graph (DAG) illustrating identification of potential confounders between beta-blocker use and exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (AECOPD).
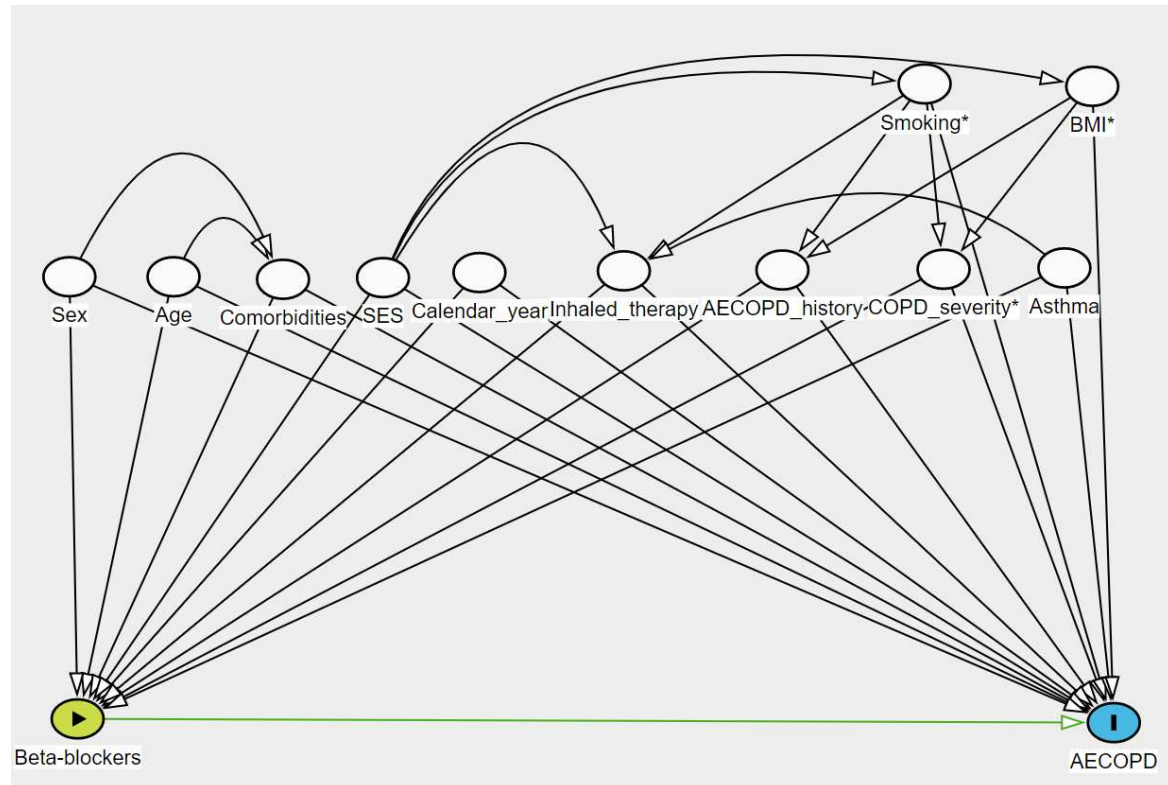
SES = socio-economic status (income). BMI = body mass index.

*: COPD severity (lung function and dyspnoea score), smoking status, and BMI were only available in a subgroup of patients and was only included in subgroup analyses of patients with complete clinical data.