

March 2022 WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES: COPD

Meeting details		
Meeting location	TRYP Barcelona Apolo Hotel (Segre Room) + MS Teams online	
Meeting date	17 th March	
Meeting time	15:00-16:00 CET	
Chair(s)	Marc Miravitlles	
Attendees	Matevz Harlander Nicolas Roche Chin Kook Rhee Bernardino Alcazar Navarrete Thomas Schuessler	Janwillem Kocks Anthony D'Urzo Ronald Dandurand Therese Lapperre Valeria Perugini
Objectives		
1	Update on active projects	
2	Future projects	
3	New project ideas/AOB	

Items		
	Peak Inspiratory Flow in COPD (CI Omar Usmani)	
	Marc has given an update on the project.	
Update on current projects	It is a multi-centre study that aims to: 1) Determine prevalence of suboptimal PIF and inadequate inhaler choice and baseline characteristics within groups. 2) Assess the clinical role of PIF and inhaler choice in predicting COPD exacerbations and symptom burden. 3) Assess the role of blood biomarkers and Th2 markers in predicting COPD exacerbations and the variability and correlation of PIF with other biomarkers and lung function measurements in stable COPD. Currently, 352/400 (88%) patients have been recruited by 18 centres. However, it seems that some sites are more active than others (e.g. Hospital Immaculada, Hospital de La Plana and etc). Marc has agreed to contact and encourage them to participate at the study which is simple and requires little effort. The need to recruit more patients has also been highlighted by Marc. This will help to complete the patient recruitment hopefully by September 2022. Therese hopes finalising the contract soon.	

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1) PREdiCtIng the risk for first COPD Severe EXacerbation (PRECISE- X) (proposed by Bernardino Alcazar Navarrete).

Bernardino has explained the aims of this project to others.

PRECISE-X stands for the development of a population-based risk prediction model for the first severe COPD exacerbation episode and promotes primary prevention strategies similar to those observed in cardiovascular risk scores (SCORE, Framlingham).

Both proposal and budget need to be reviewed. Bernardino and Marc have proposed to include the costs for database, data entry or data analysis as previously agreed to be performed by Mohsen Sadarsafavi, University of British Columbia, Canada.

The study has already been discussed with distinct pharmaceutical companies (e.g., GSK), but only AstraZeneca have shown interest. Both Bernardino and Marc have also proposed to contact Menarini.

2) Use of low dose macrolides in COPD (proposed by Therese Lapperre).

Therese has given an update on the project.

Future projects

The main objective of the project is to assess the long-term use of low dose macrolides represented by azithromycin in patients with COPD.

This has been suggested to be a descriptive study as reported in the proposal that has already been reviewed by both Therese and Marc. However, there are still questions to be addressed including linking mortality, budget, and funding.

Although it is a very interesting project, the study has not recently attracted sponsors. It has been considered to contact distinct institutions rather than pharmaceutic companies.

The COPD WG members have proposed to simplify the study by performing an initial analysis while using previous published data to address questions regarding:

- When macrolides are prescribed.
- Why and when macrolides are prescribed in combination with other drugs.
- Side effects.

Yet, the PRECISE-X could be used for extrapolating data to perform and analyse the macrolide study.

New projects/AOB

To give continuity to the PIF study, Marc has proposed a new prospective project on triple therapy for COPD. The idea is to oversee its advantages and disadvantages in patients that have been discharged from hospital. This could be an observational short-term study (e.g., 6 months).

The COPD WG members have discussed how it might appeal to and fit potential sponsors.

The lead of this project has been proposed to be someone from Asian side, for example Chin Kook Rhee.

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Advances in real-life respiratory research

Ronald Dandurand has introduced two new biomarkers for COPD. These were technically described while attracting interest among the COPD WG members.