

Update on Adult Asthma Management

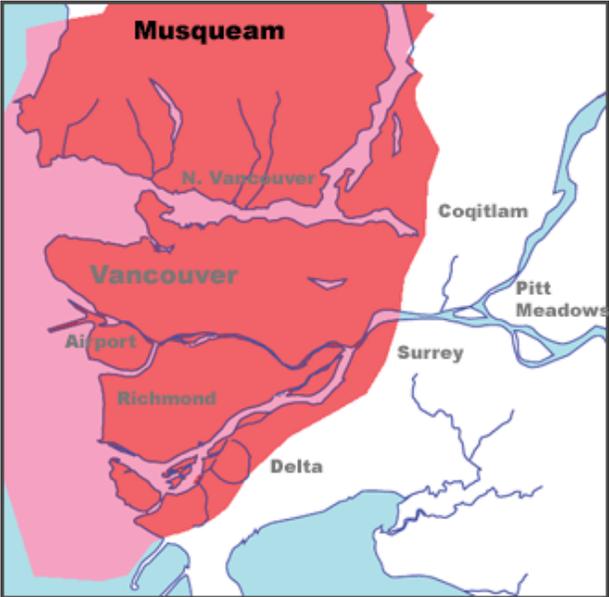
Celine Bergeron, MD, FRCPC, MSc

Respirologist VGH/UBC

Vancouver, 7 February 2024

We would like to acknowledge that we are gathered today on the traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

Source: www.johomaps.net/na/canada/bc/vancouver/firstnations/firstnations.html



Speaker Disclosures

- **Employer:** British Columbia Health Services
- **Advisory Boards:** Sanofi-Regeneron, Astra-Zeneca, ValeoPharma, Takeda
- **Speaker fees/honoraria:** Astra-Zeneca-Amgen, GlaxoSmithKline, Grifols, ValeoPharma, Sanofi-Regeneron
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Objectives

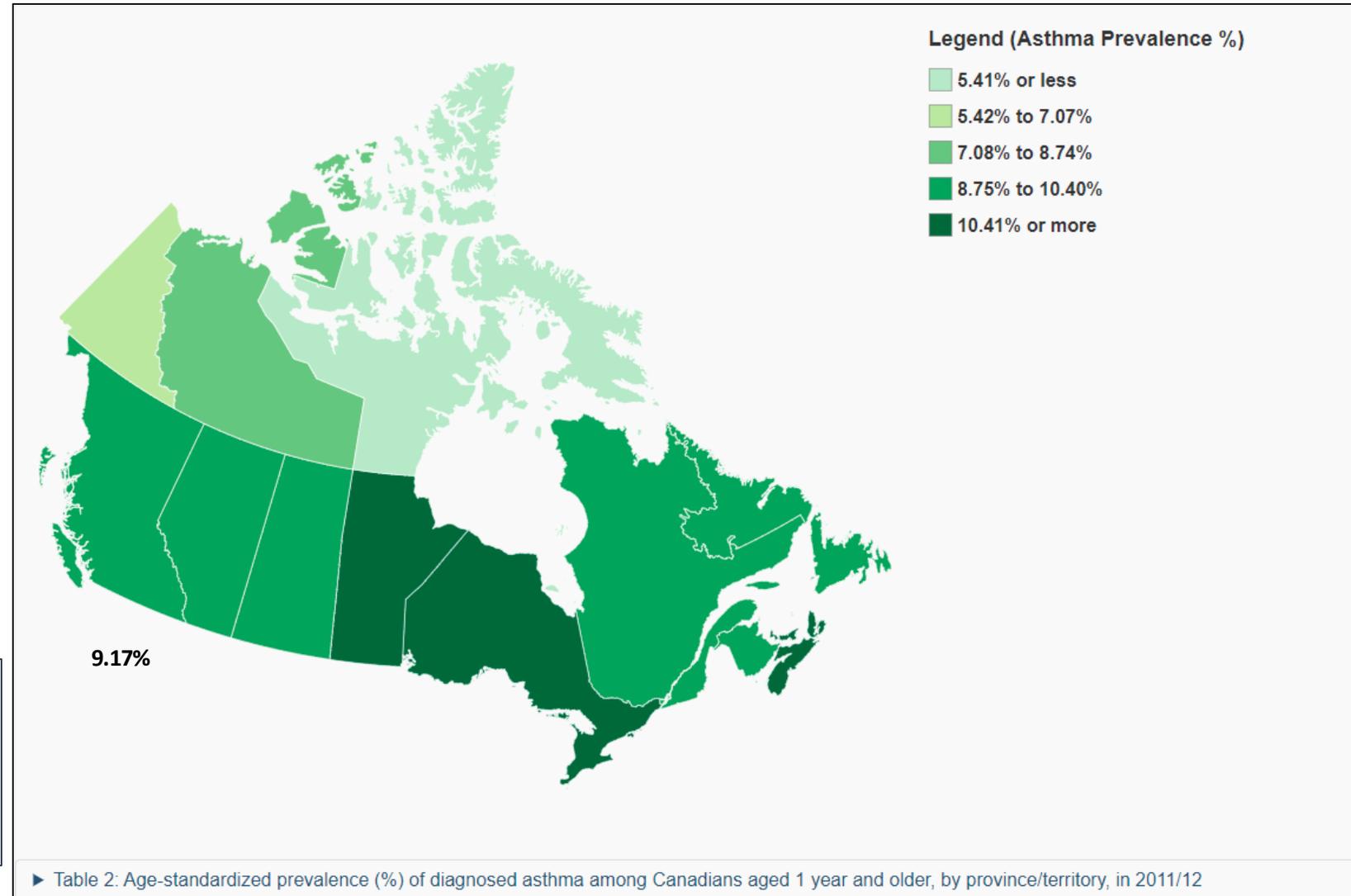
1. Review the mild adult asthma management in 2024
2. Understand the management of moderate to severe adult asthma
3. Overview of available biological therapy for severe asthma
4. Recognize the risk factors of exacerbations and mortality in adult asthma
5. Discuss the ISAR data on socioeconomic disparity in severe asthma

Asthma - prevalence

- Worldwide
 - Prevalence 1-18%
 - 346,000 deaths/year
- In Canada
 - Affects 8.4% of Canadians
 - 9.8% Females
 - 7.0% Males
- 35th cause of death worldwide
 - Rate of asthma deaths 1.5-2.0 / 10,000

Risk factors of mortality

- Poorly controlled asthma
- Prior history of near-fatal asthma
- In all severity of asthma



Mild Adult Asthma Management

Objective 1



NEW

Change to criteria for well-controlled asthma

Characteristic	Frequency or value
Daytime symptoms	≤ 2 days/week ←
Nighttime symptoms	< 1 night/week and mild ←
Physical activity	Normal
Exacerbations	Mild and infrequent*
Absence from work or school due to asthma	None
Need for a reliever (SABA or bud/form) [†]	≤ 2 doses per week ←
FEV ₁ or PEF	≥ 90% of personal best
PEF diurnal variation	< 10-15% [#]
Sputum eosinophils	< 2-3% [●]

A patient who meets all of the above criteria would be considered to have well-controlled asthma

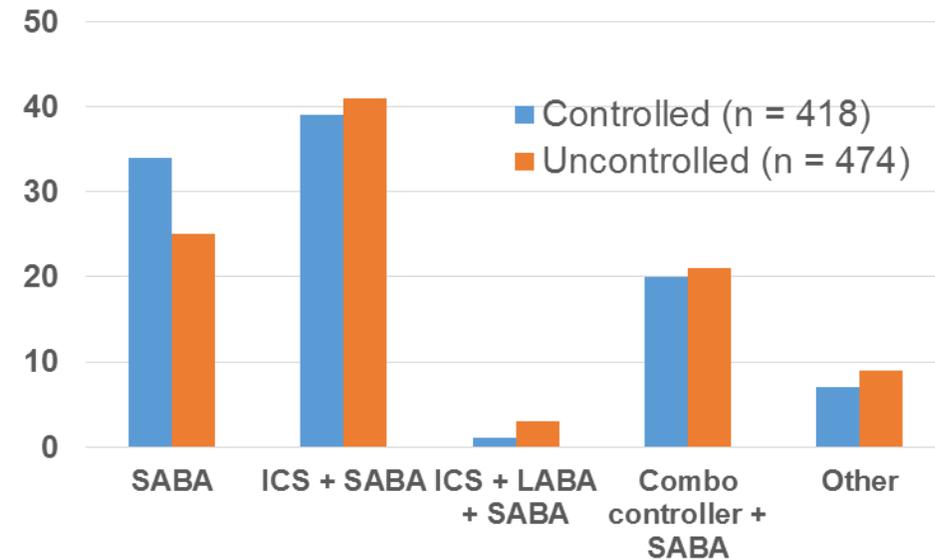
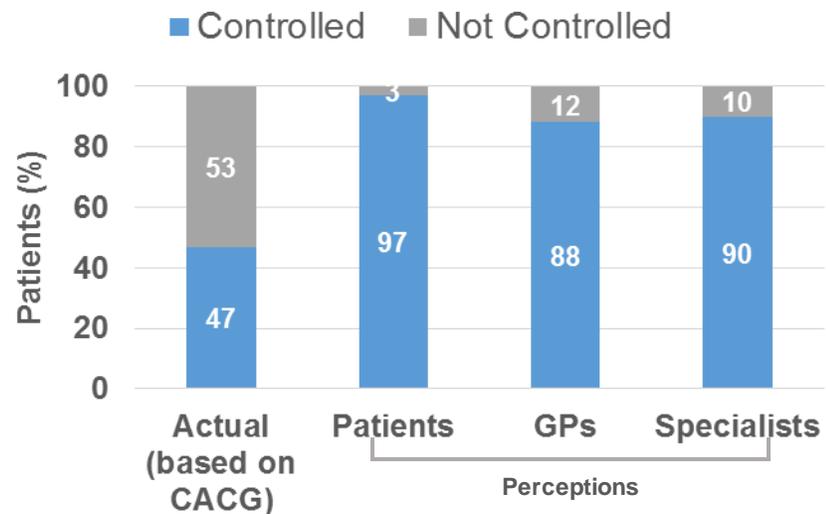
- * A mild exacerbation is an increase in asthma symptoms from baseline that does not require systemic steroids, an ED visit, or a hospitalization. “Infrequent” is not specifically defined, since the frequency of mild exacerbations that patients consider an impairment to quality of life varies. If the patient feels that the frequency of mild exacerbations is impairing their quality of life, then their asthma should be considered poorly-controlled. If a patient is having frequent mild exacerbations, they should be assessed to determine if at baseline, they have poorly-controlled asthma. ←
- † There are no established criteria for control when using bud/form as a reliever, however, use of a reliever often indicates that a patient is having symptoms and is a criterion that can be objectively assessed.
- # Diurnal variation is calculated as the highest peak expiratory flow (PEF) minus the lowest divided by the highest peak flow multiplied by 100, for morning and night (determined over a two-week period).
- Consider in adults ≥ 18 years of age with uncontrolled moderate to severe asthma who are assessed in specialist centres.

THE MAJORITY OF CANADIANS WITH ASTHMA ARE INADEQUATELY CONTROLLED

53%

of Canadian adult patients with asthma had uncontrolled disease

The Reality of Asthma Control (TRAC) study (N = 893)¹



■ FitzGerald, JM, et al. *Can Resp J* 2006;13(5):253-259.

Importance to achieve good control of asthma

- Population
- Economic burden of asthma In British-Columbia:
 - \$46.3 to \$62 millions per year related to direct costs of asthma
- Sub-optimal asthma control is responsible for significant cost
 - 10% prevalence reduction in suboptimal control = 18% reduction in cost

Sadatsafavi, M. et al. 2010: CRJ. 74-80

Zafari, Z. et al. 2018: Resp Med. 138: 7-12



- Individual

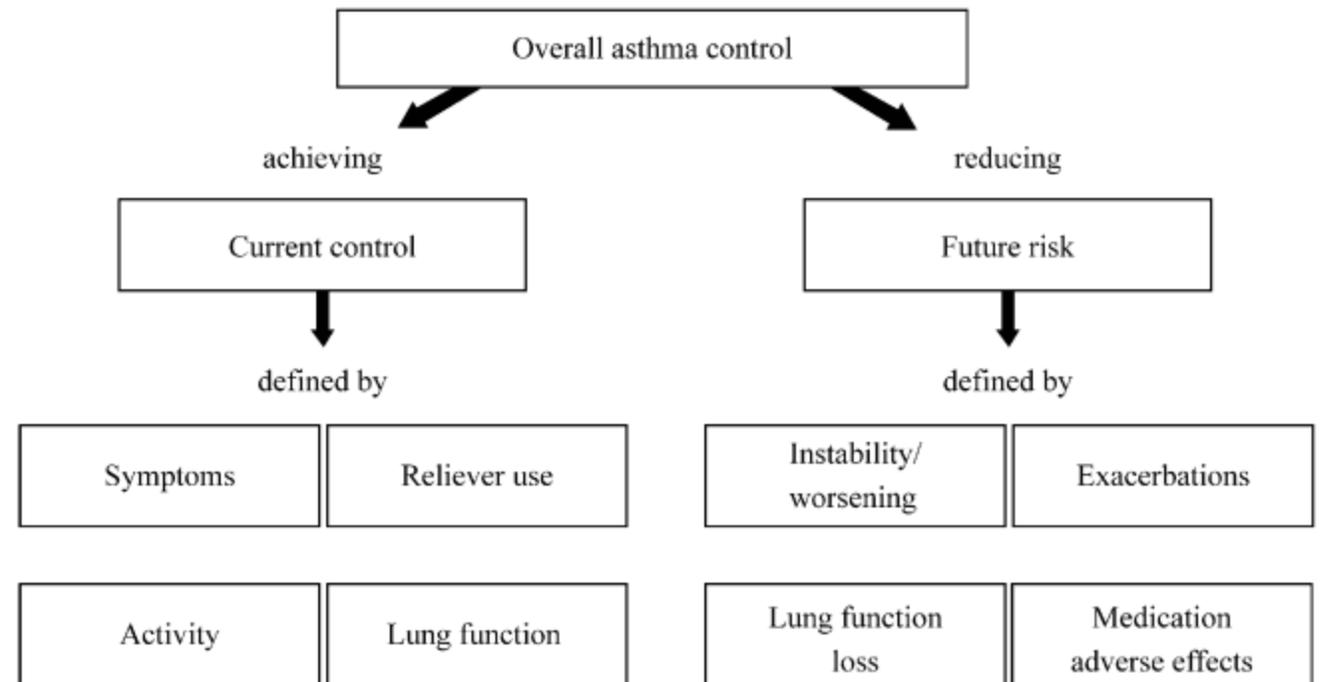
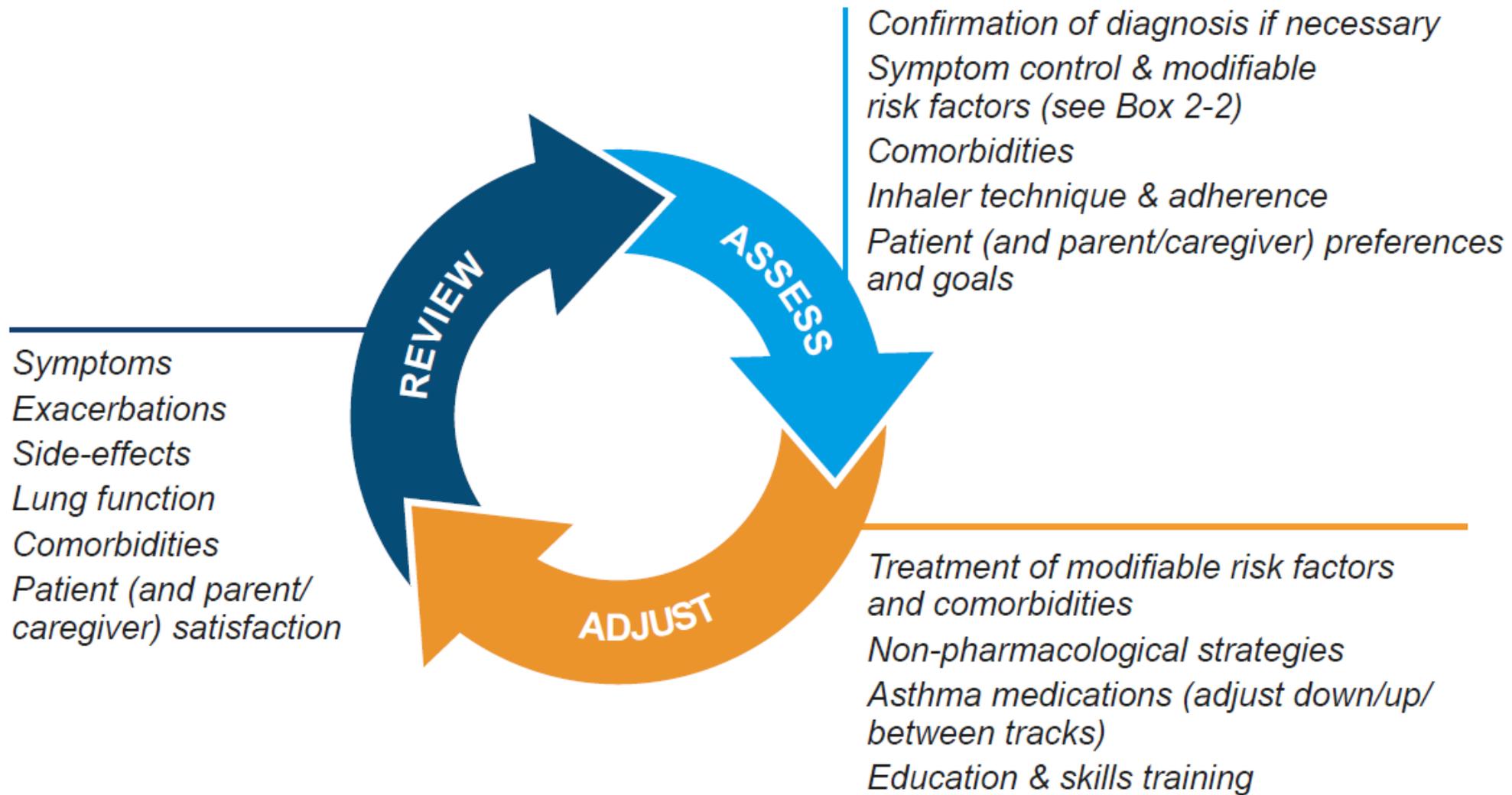


FIG 1. Goals of asthma management.

Goals of asthma treatment

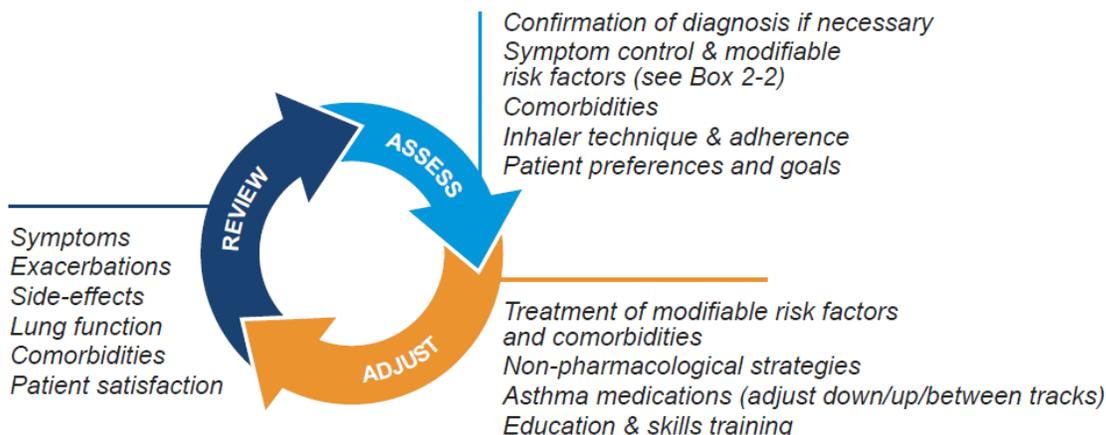
- § Few asthma symptoms
 - § No sleep disturbance
 - § No exercise limitation
- } Symptom control (e.g. ACT, ACQ)
- § Maintain normal lung function
 - § Prevent flare-ups (exacerbations)
 - § Prevent asthma deaths
 - § Minimize medication side-effects (including OCS)
- } Risk reduction
- § The patient's goals may be different
 - § Symptom control and risk may be discordant
 - § Patients with few symptoms can still have severe exacerbations



GINA 2023 – Adults & adolescents 12+ years

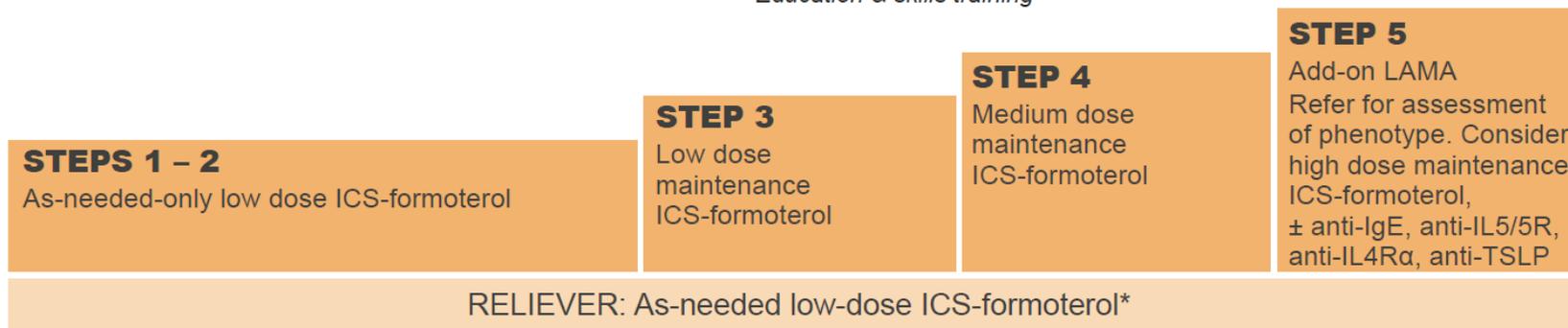
Personalized asthma management

Assess, Adjust, Review for individual patient needs



TRACK 1: PREFERRED CONTROLLER and RELIEVER

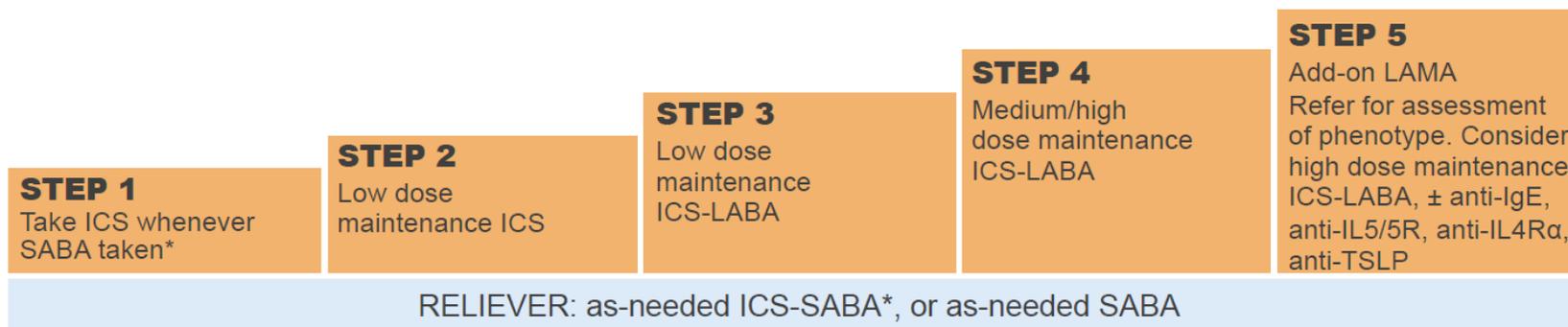
Using ICS-formoterol as the reliever* reduces the risk of exacerbations compared with using a SABA reliever, and is a simpler regimen



See GINA severe asthma guide

TRACK 2: Alternative CONTROLLER and RELIEVER

Before considering a regimen with SABA reliever, check if the patient is likely to adhere to daily controller treatment



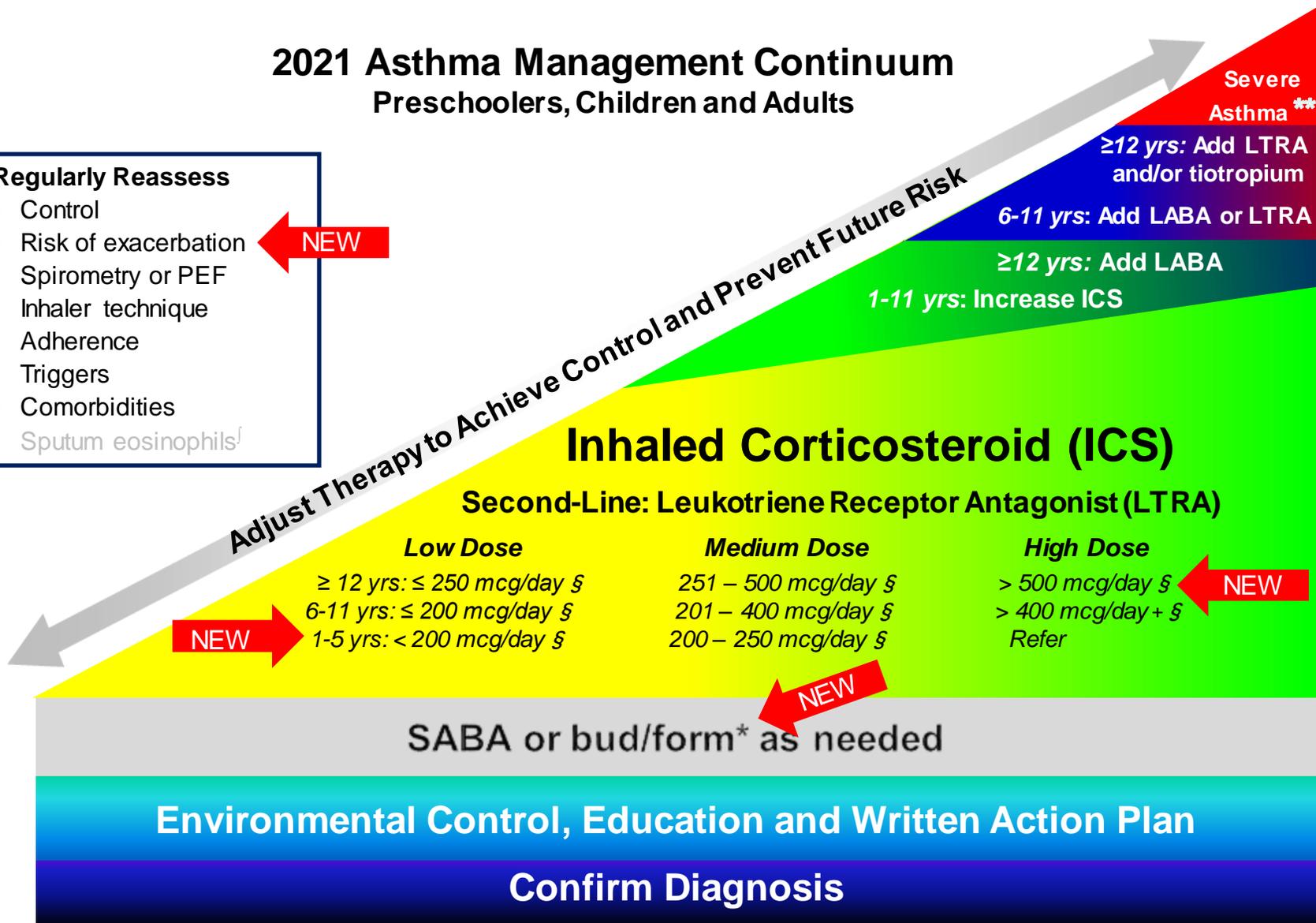
Other controller options (limited indications, or less evidence for efficacy or safety – see text)

	Low dose ICS whenever SABA taken*, or daily LTRA, or add HDM SLIT	Medium dose ICS, or add LTRA, or add HDM SLIT	Add LAMA or LTRA or HDM SLIT, or switch to high dose ICS	Add azithromycin (adults) or LTRA. As last resort consider adding low dose OCS but consider side-effects
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*Anti-inflammatory reliever (AIR)

2021 Asthma Management Continuum Preschoolers, Children and Adults

- Regularly Reassess**
- Control
 - Risk of exacerbation **NEW**
 - Spirometry or PEF
 - Inhaler technique
 - Adherence
 - Triggers
 - Comorbidities
 - Sputum eosinophils[†]



* Or an alternative ICS/form preparation if another is approved for use as a reliever in the future. Bud/form is approved as a reliever for ≥12 years of age and should only be used as a reliever in individuals using it as monotherapy or in conjunction with bud/form maintenance therapy

§ HFA Fluticasone propionate or equivalent

+ Not approved for use in Canada

† In adults, 18 years old and over with moderate to severe asthma assessed in specialist centres

** For severe asthma refer to CTS 2017 Recognition and management of Severe Asthma Position Statement



NEW

Assessing risk of exacerbations in addition to asthma control

- When deciding on optimal treatment, in addition to evaluating asthma control, risk of asthma exacerbation should be assessed.
- A higher risk for an exacerbation is defined by any of the following criteria:

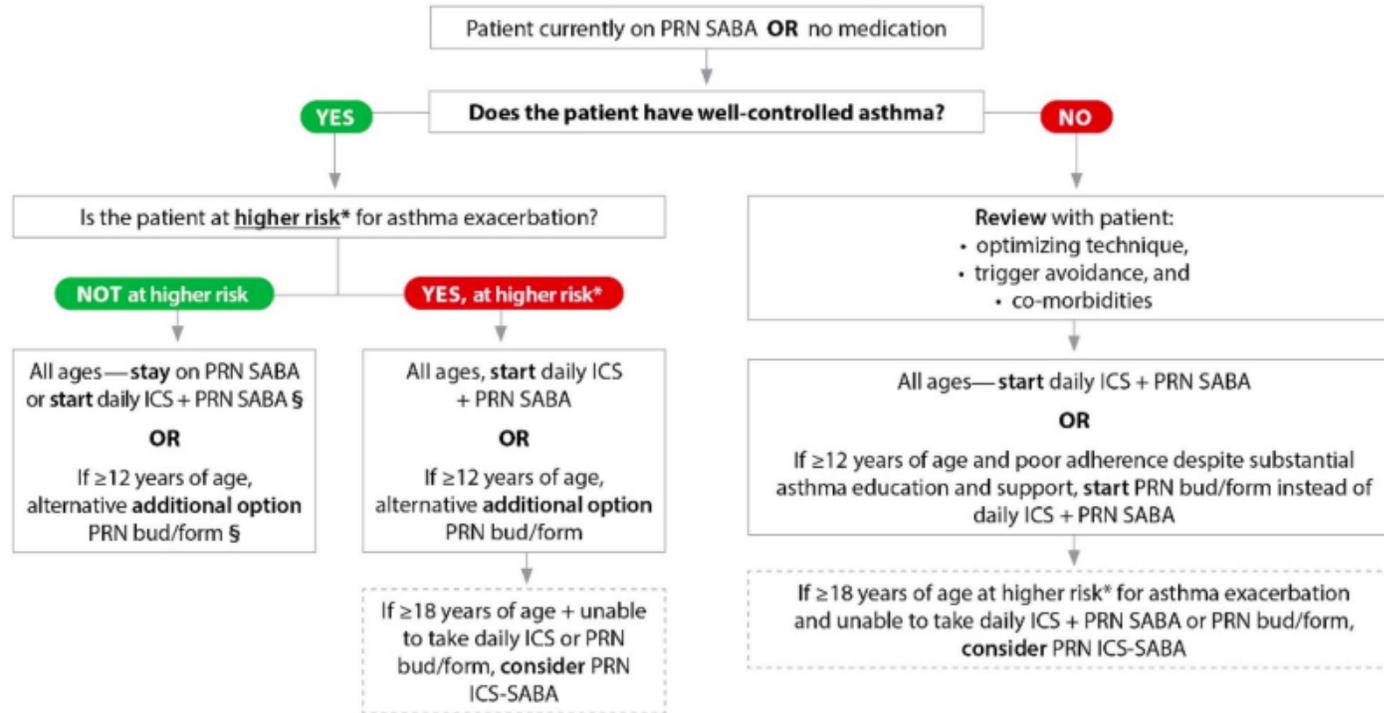
History of a previous severe asthma exacerbation (requiring any of: systemic steroids; ED visit; or hospitalization)

Poorly-controlled asthma as per CTS criteria

Overuse of SABA (defined as use of more than 2 inhalers of SABA in a year¹); or

Current smoker

Risk factors chosen based on: OR >1.5, certainty of the effect of the risk factor, ease of use in clinical practice



*Higher risk if a patient had any of the following:

- 1) any history of a previous severe asthma exacerbation requiring:
 - systemic steroids,
 - ED visit, or
 - hospitalization
- 2) poorly-controlled asthma as per CTS criteria
- 3) overuse of short-acting beta-agonist (defined as use of more than two inhalers of SABA in a year)
- 4) current smoker

§ Based on patient preference—the decision to switch from PRN SABA to daily ICS + PRN SABA or PRN bud/form is for those that want better asthma control and to decrease their risk of exacerbation

⋯ Dash boxes represent harm reduction strategy

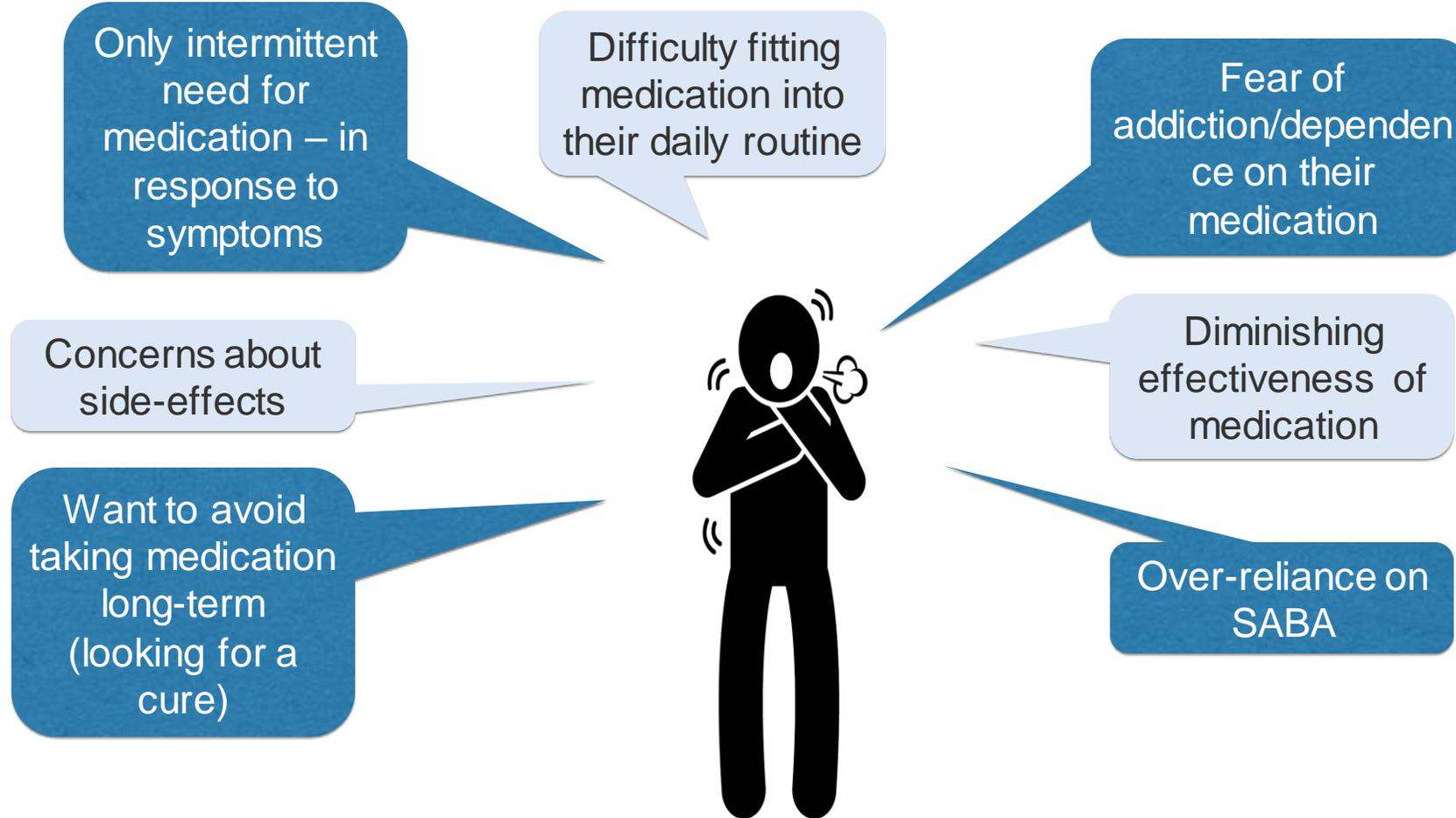
SABA: short-acting beta-agonist; ICS: inhaled corticosteroids; bud/form: budesonide-formoterol in a single inhaler; ED: emergency department

Mild asthma management

– Education, Action Plan and Self-Management

- **Essential component of management**
- Reduction
 - Hospitalizations
 - Emergency visits
 - Urgent physician visits
 - Missed days at work or school
 - Days of restricted activity
- Improvement in pulmonary function
- Non-compliance with medication is common
 - Assessing individual barriers with patients is important

My patient isn't taking her/his inhalers....



Components of an asthma education program

1. **Written action plan:** Provision and explanation of a written action plan comprising:
 - How and how often to assess asthma control (self-monitoring)
 - Instructions to maintain good control using controller medication and making specific environmental changes
 - Signs and symptoms indicating uncontrolled asthma, with instructions on what to do during loss of control (medication to add or increase, how much and how long; when and how to seek additional help (eg, when to go to the hospital or call the health care provider))
 2. **What is asthma?:** A chronic inflammatory condition in which airways are hyper-reactive (sensitive) to environmental (allergenic, irritants or infectious) and/or intrinsic factors
 3. **Asthma control** for all patients: Asthma can be controlled and all patients with asthma can lead a normal life. Regular symptoms and asthma exacerbations indicate treatment failure
 4. **Reliever versus controller:** The difference between reliever and controller medications and their use in the written action plan
 5. **Identify triggers:** Identification and avoidance of environmental triggers specific to the patients
 6. **Inhaler technique:** Teaching and verification of the inhalation technique specific to the inhalation devices prescribed for the patient
 7. **Medication safety and side effects:** Expected onset of action and potential side effects of medications
-

Carbon footprint of inhalers



House of Commons
Environmental Audit Committee

UK Progress on reducing F-gas Emissions

Fifth Report of Session 2017–19

*Report, together with formal minutes relating
to the report*

*Ordered by the House of Commons
to be printed 18 April 2018*

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Carbon footprint of inhalers

-1 salbutamol MDI = 24 turbuhalers

Health

Asthma carbon footprint 'as big as eating meat'

By Michelle Roberts
Health editor, BBC News online

30 October 2019



Climate change



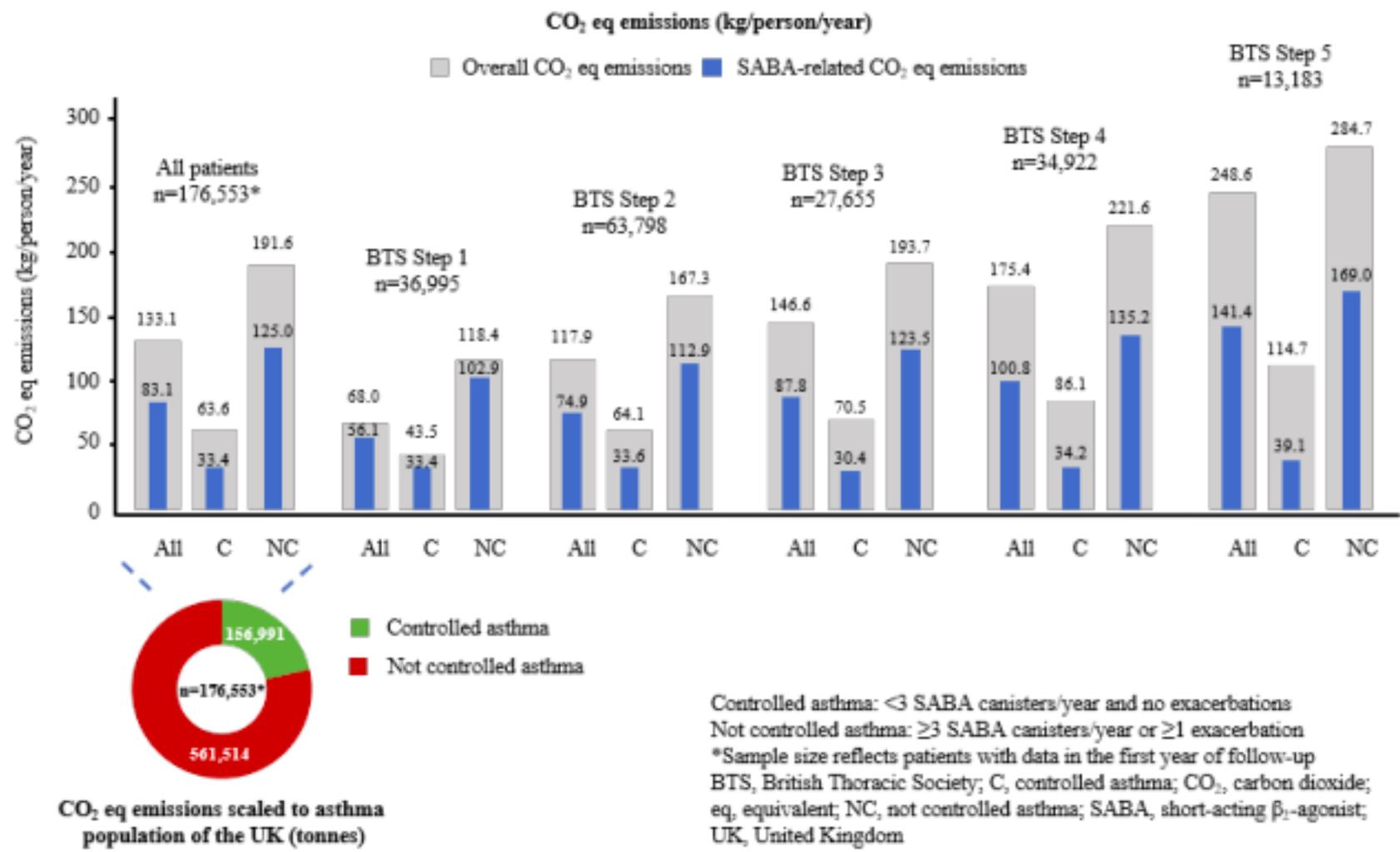
Many people with asthma could cut their carbon footprint and help save the environment by switching to "greener" medications, UK researchers say.

- In UK, 70% MDI, 30% DPI
- Some inhalers release greenhouse gases linked to global warming:
 - gas – hydrofluoroalkane (HFA) ; (Global Warming Potential)
 - Mainly HFA 134a as propellant, which has a GWP of 1,480,
 - minority use HFA 227, which has a GWP of 2,800
- In UK, MDI account for nearly **4%** of NHS greenhouse gas emissions
- Replacing 1 in every 10 of MDI inhalers with a more environmentally friendly type (dry powder inhalers)
 - Reduction in carbon dioxide equivalent emissions by **58 kilotonnes** (similar to the carbon footprint of 180,000 return car journeys from London to Edinburgh; 666km x2)
- Making the swap would have as big an "eco" impact as turning vegetarian or becoming an avid recycler
- At the individual level, each MDI replaced by DPI could save the equivalent of between 150kg and 400kg (63 stone) of carbon dioxide a year - similar to the carbon footprint reduction of cutting meat from your diet.



1 aerosol inhaler, depending on the type, can have the same carbon footprint as driving up to **170km** in a gas car.*

Fig 1. Annual greenhouse gas emissions associated with asthma care in the UK



Canadian Thoracic Society Position Statement on Climate Change and Choice of Inhalers for Patients with Respiratory Disease

Samir Gupta^{a,b} , Simon Couillard^c , Geneviève Digby^d , Sze Man Tse^{e,f} , Samantha Green^g , Raymond Acheron^h, Chris Carlstenⁱ, Jill Hubick^j and Erika Penz^k 

Table 1. Overview of inhaler form, carbon footprint and considerations for inhaler choice.

Inhaler format	 SMI	 DPI ^a	 pMDI (current)	 pMDI (future)
Relative carbon footprint ^b	<1 (LOW)	1 (LOW)	15–30 (HIGH)	<1 ^c –2 ^d (LO)
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age ≥ 4 Teaching and demonstration required to minimize critical errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age ≥ 4^e Adequate inspiratory flow rate/pressure Teaching and demonstration required to minimize critical errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any age Spacer (or VHC/facemask in early life) Teaching and demonstration required to minimize critical errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any age Spacer (or VHC/facemask in early life) Teaching and demonstration required to minimize critical errors
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of propellant decreases carbon footprint Propellant-free solution under mechanical pressure requires a low inspiratory flow rate/pressure May be used with a spacer (or VHC/facemask in early life) Amenable to caregiver administration Often has a dose indicator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of propellant decreases carbon footprint Often has a dose counter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often less expensive than DPI alternative Amenable to caregiver administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newer propellants have much lower to no GHGs emissions Am...
Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination may be difficult when no spacer used Dose cannister must be loaded in device Priming required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Younger, older patients and some patients with acute / chronic respiratory disease may lack sufficient inspiratory flow rate/pressure for adequate administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propellant generally carbon-intensive Dose counter not often available Need to shake and prime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ne... to... yet... inh... Co...

Abbreviations: DPI, dry powder inhaler; GHG, greenhouse gas; pMDI, pressurized multi-dose inhaler; SMI, soft-mist inhaler; VHC, valved H

^aOther DPI devices include: respiclickTM, inhubTM, genuairTM, aerolizerTM, handihalerTM

^bFor specific inhaler carbon footprint estimations, see PrescQIPP resource: <https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/bulletins/bulletin-295>

^cRelative estimate for HFO-1234ze molecule.¹⁴

^dRelative estimate for HFA-152a molecule.⁶⁷

^eDPI devices are approved for children aged ≥ 4 years but preschool aged children may not be able to consistently achieve adequate pressures, nor form a tight seal around the mouthpiece of the device and require extensive teaching and verification.

Note. Inhaler images in Table 1 are from the Electronic Asthma Management System (eAMS), reproduced with permission from Dr. Samir Gupta.

Box 1. Practical considerations when selecting an inhaler device.

- Patient preference
- Impact of inhaler device on adherence
- Inhalation technique (patient ability)
- Inspiratory flow rate/pressure required for adequate medication delivery (patient ability)
- Patient age
- Cost for patient and/or public healthcare system
- Side effect profile
- Environmental footprint

Don't prescribe greenhouse gas-intensive metered-dose inhalers (MDIs) for asthma and/or COPD where an alternative inhaler with a lower carbon footprint (e.g. dry power inhaler (DPI), soft-mist inhaler, or MDI with a low greenhouse gas potential propellant) containing medications with comparable efficacy is available, and where the patient has demonstrated adequate technique and patient preference has been considered.

What we can do as HCP for the environment

- Awareness of carbon footprint of inhalers
 - Choice of dry powder over metered dose inhaler
- Aim for good asthma control
 - Acceptable asthma control (< 3 SABA cannister/year) is one third of uncontrolled asthma (≥ 3 SABA cannister/y or 1 exacerbation)
 - Severe asthma exacerbation increased the Carbon footprint via use of ambulance, car, ER visits and hospitalisations.
 - Reduction in CO₂ emission by prevention severe exacerbation equal to use a low carbon DPI (Breezhaler[®]) for ~74 patient years.

BC Inhalers

A guide to **green** inhalers in British Columbia, Canada

Inhaler Carbon Emissions:



Instructions

1. Select indication:*

Asthma

2. Add criteria:

- Green inhalers only
- PharmaCare covered
(Special Authority NOT required)
- Available in hospital

Patient's Age:

Years Old

Updated: November 2023

[Disclaimer & About Us](#)

[Quick Guide to Inhaler Switches](#)

SABA

Bricanyl Turbuhaler terbutaline	Ventolin Diskus salbutamol	Teva-Salbutamol MDI salbutamol	Ventolin MDI salbutamol
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ICS

Pulmicort Turbuhaler budesonide	Arnuity Ellipta fluticasone furoate	Flovent Diskus fluticasone propionate	Aermony Resplick fluticasone propionate
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Asmanex Twisthaler mometasone furoate	Flovent MDI fluticasone propionate	Advessa MDI ciclesonide	Qvar MDI beclomethasone dipropionate
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ICS/LABA

Symbicort Turbuhaler budesonide + formoterol	Breo Ellipta fluticasone furoate + vilanterol	Wixela Inhub fluticasone propionate + salmeterol	Advair Diskus fluticasone propionate + salmeterol
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Ateectura Breezhaler indacaterol + mometasone	Advair MDI fluticasone propionate + salmeterol	Zenhale MDI mometasone + formoterol fumarate
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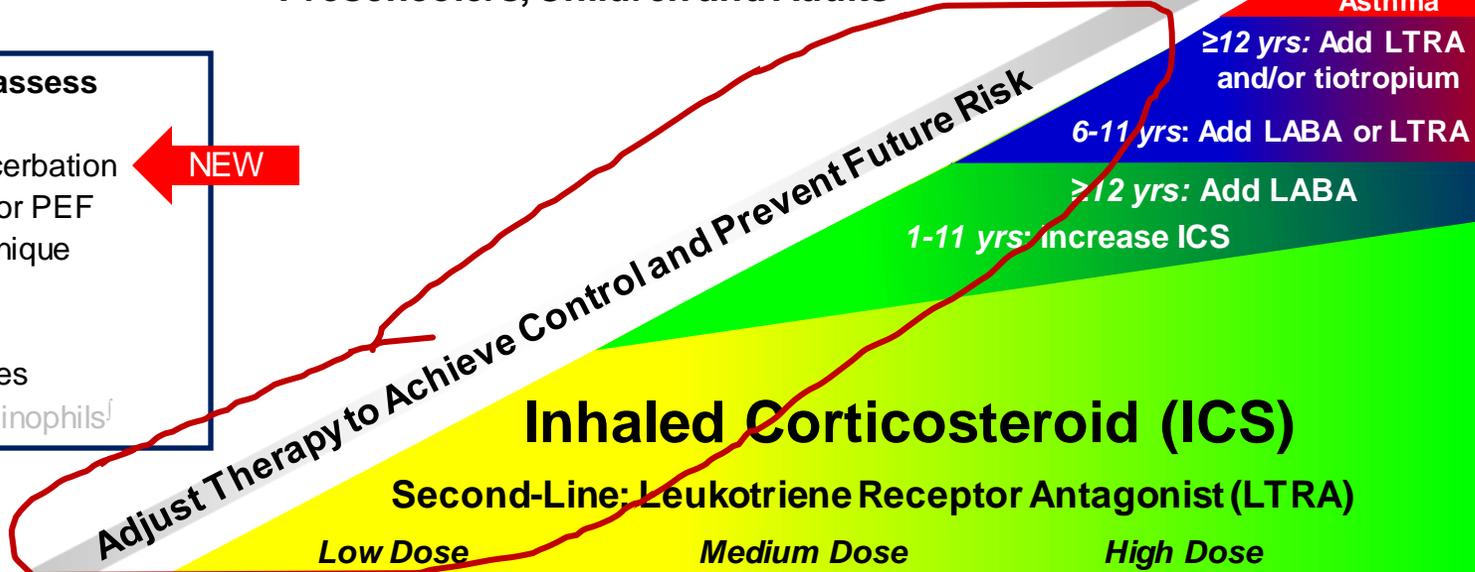
ICS/LAMA/LABA

Trelegy	Enerzair
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2021 Asthma Management Continuum Preschoolers, Children and Adults

- Regularly Reassess**
- Control
 - Risk of exacerbation
 - Spirometry or PEF
 - Inhaler technique
 - Adherence
 - Triggers
 - Comorbidities
 - Sputum eosinophils[†]

NEW



Low Dose	Medium Dose	High Dose
≥ 12 yrs: ≤ 250 mcg/day § 6-11 yrs: ≤ 200 mcg/day § 1-5 yrs: < 200 mcg/day §	251 – 500 mcg/day § 201 – 400 mcg/day § 200 – 250 mcg/day §	> 500 mcg/day § > 400 mcg/day + § Refer

SABA or bud/form* as needed

Environmental Control, Education and Written Action Plan

Confirm Diagnosis

* Or an alternative ICS/form preparation if another is approved for use as a reliever in the future. Bud/form is approved as a reliever for ≥12 years of age and should only be used as a reliever in individuals using it as monotherapy or in conjunction with bud/form maintenance therapy

§ HFA Fluticasone propionate or equivalent

+ Not approved for use in Canada

† In adults, 18 years old and over with moderate to severe asthma assessed in specialist centres

** For severe asthma refer to CTS 2017 Recognition and management of Severe Asthma Position Statement

Mild asthma

- Control to optimize
 - Symptoms control and risk reduction
- Education
- Risks factors: prior severe exacerbation, poorly control, overuse SABA, smoker
- ICS/formoterol as needed
- Low carbon footprint inhalers

Why is GINA Track 1 with ICS-formoterol preferred?

- n **Steps 1–2:** weight of evidence for effectiveness and safety compared with SABA alone, or low-dose ICS plus as-needed SABA (4x12 month studies, n~10,000) (*Crossingham et al, Cochrane 2021*)
 - § As-needed ICS-SABA: only one 6-month RCT (n=455) (*Papi et al, NEJMed 2007*)

- n **Steps 3–5:** weight of evidence for effectiveness and safety of MART versus regimens with as-needed SABA (n~30,000) (*Sobieraj et al, JAMA 2018; Cates et al, Cochrane 2013*)
 - § As-needed ICS-SABA: only one RCT (n=3,132) vs as-needed SABA (*Papi et al, NEJMed 2022*); cannot be used for maintenance and reliever therapy

- n Both the ICS and the formoterol contribute to reduction in severe exacerbations (*Tattersfield et al, Lancet 2001; Pauwels et al, ERJ 2003; Rabe et al, Lancet 2006*)
 - § Safety established up to total 12 inhalations in any day, in large studies

- n **Simplicity of approach** for patients and clinicians
 - § A single medication for both symptom relief and maintenance treatment (if needed) from diagnosis
 - § Avoids confusion about inhaler technique with different devices
 - § Short-term increase in symptoms → patient increases the number of **as-needed** doses
 - § Step treatment down or up by changing the number of maintenance doses

Reliever doses of ICS-formoterol - how much can be taken?



- n For ICS-formoterol with 6 mcg (4.5 mcg delivered dose) of formoterol, take **1 inhalation** whenever needed for symptom relief
- n Another inhalation can be taken after a few minutes if needed
- n Maximum total number of inhalations in any single day (as-needed + maintenance)
 - § **Budesonide-formoterol**: maximum 12 inhalations* for adults, 8 inhalations for children, based on extensive safety data (*Tattersfield et al, Lancet 2001; Pauwels et al, ERJ 2003*)
 - § **Beclometasone-formoterol**: maximum total 8 inhalations in any day (*Papi et al, Lancet Respir Med 2013*)
- n Emphasize that most patients need far fewer doses than this!
- n For pMDIs containing 3 mcg formoterol (2.25 mcg delivered dose), take 2 inhalations each time

*For budesonide-formoterol 200/6 [delivered dose 160/4.5 mcg], 12 inhalations gives 72 mcg formoterol (54 mcg delivered dose)

Practical advice for GINA Track 1

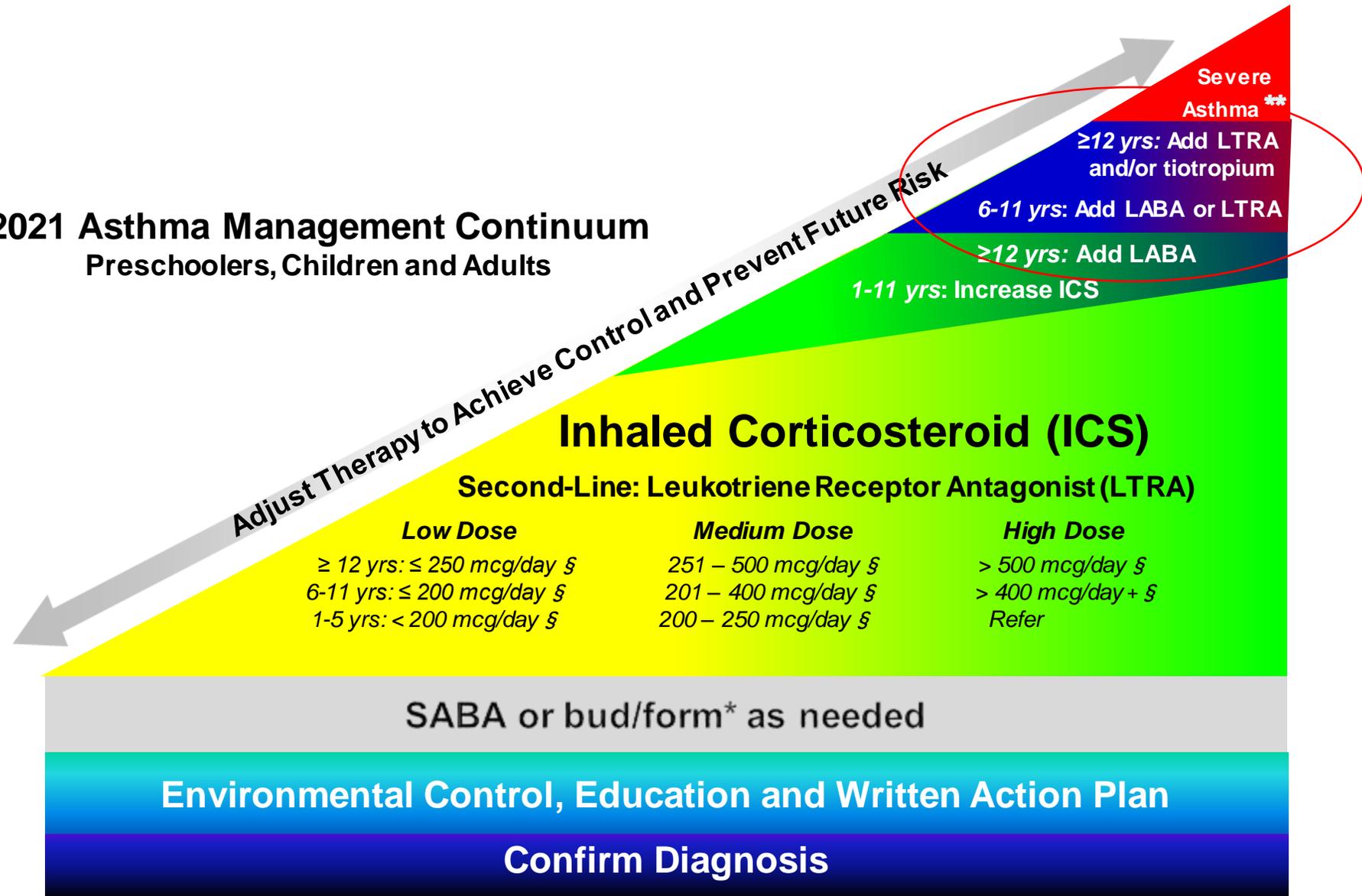


- n At first, patients may be unsure whether ICS-formoterol will work as well as their previous SABA reliever
 - § In the PRACTICAL study, 69% patients said ICS-formoterol worked as fast as, or faster than, their previous SABA (*Baggott et al, ERJ 2020*)
 - § Suggest to the patient that they try out the new reliever at a convenient time
 - § Emphasise that they should use the ICS-formoterol **instead of** their previous SABA, and that they should take an additional inhalation when they have more symptoms
- n Advise patients to have two inhalers (if possible), 1 at home, 1 in bag/pocket
- n Advise patients to rinse and spit out after maintenance doses, but this is not needed with reliever doses
 - § No increased incidence of candidiasis in RCTs with this recommendation (n~40,000)
- n Use an action plan customised to MART
 - § The patient continues their usual maintenance ICS-formoterol inhalations, but takes more **as-needed** ICS-formoterol inhalations
 - § Taking extra as-needed inhalations reduces the risk of progressing to a severe exacerbation needing oral corticosteroids (*Bousquet et al, Respir Med 2007; Buhl et al, Respir Res 2012; O'Byrne et al, Lancet Respir Med 2021*)
- n Additional practical advice for MART (*Reddel et al, JACI in Practice 2022*)

Moderate to severe asthma management

Objective 2

2021 Asthma Management Continuum Preschoolers, Children and Adults



Reference: Connie L. Yang, Elizabeth Anne Hicks, Patrick Mitchell, Joe Reisman, Delanya Podgers, Kathleen M. Hayward, Mark Waite & Clare D. Ramsey (2021): Canadian Thoracic Society 2021 Guideline update: Diagnosis and management of asthma in preschoolers, children and adults, Canadian Journal of Respiratory, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine,

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ICS/LABA options

ASSOCIATIONS (DUO)
CORTICOSTÉROÏDES + AGONISTES BÉTA-2 À LONGUE DURÉE D'ACTION

Budésonide + Formotérol <small>(sursaturé dilué)</small>		Fluticasone <small>(sursaturé)</small> + Vilantérol <small>(en solution)</small>		Fluticasone <small>(proportionnée)</small> + Salmétérol <small>(en solution)</small>				
SYMBICORT Turbuhaler 100/6 mcg	SYMBICORT Turbuhaler 200/6 mcg	BREO Elipta 100/25 mcg	BREO Elipta 200/25 mcg	ADVAIR* Aérosol-doseur 125/25 mcg	ADVAIR* Aérosol-doseur 250/25 mcg	ADVAIR Diskus 100/50 mcg	ADVAIR Diskus 250/50 mcg	ADVAIR Diskus 500/50 mcg
								
SUITE - Fluticasone <small>(proportionnée)</small> + Salmétérol <small>(en solution)</small>			Mométasone <small>(sursaturé)</small> + Formotérol <small>(sursaturé dilué)</small>		Mométasone <small>(sursaturé)</small> + Indacatérol <small>(en solution)</small>			
Wixela Inhalo 100/50 mcg	Wixela Inhalo 250/50 mcg	Wixela Inhalo 500/50 mcg	ZENHALE* Aérosol-doseur 100/5 mcg	ZENHALE* Aérosol-doseur 200/5 mcg	ATECTURA Brechaler 80/150 mcg	ATECTURA Brechaler 160/150 mcg	ATECTURA Brechaler 320/150 mcg	
								

Inhaled Respiratory Medication for Patients with Poor Asthma Control treated with ICS/LABA

Single Inhaler Triple Therapies (SITTs)

Mometasone furoate
/Indacaterol/Glycopyrronium



ENERZAIR
Breezhaler
160/50/150 mcg

Fluticasone furoate/
Vilanterol/Umeclidinium



TRELEGY
Ellipta
100/62,5/25 mcg



TRELEGY
Ellipta
200/62,5/25 mcg

One inhalation once daily

Open Triple Therapy

ICS/LABA + Tiotropium

ICS/LABA



+



SPIRIVA
Respimat
2,5 mcg

Two inhalations once daily (plus dosing
schedule for existing ICS/LABA regimen)

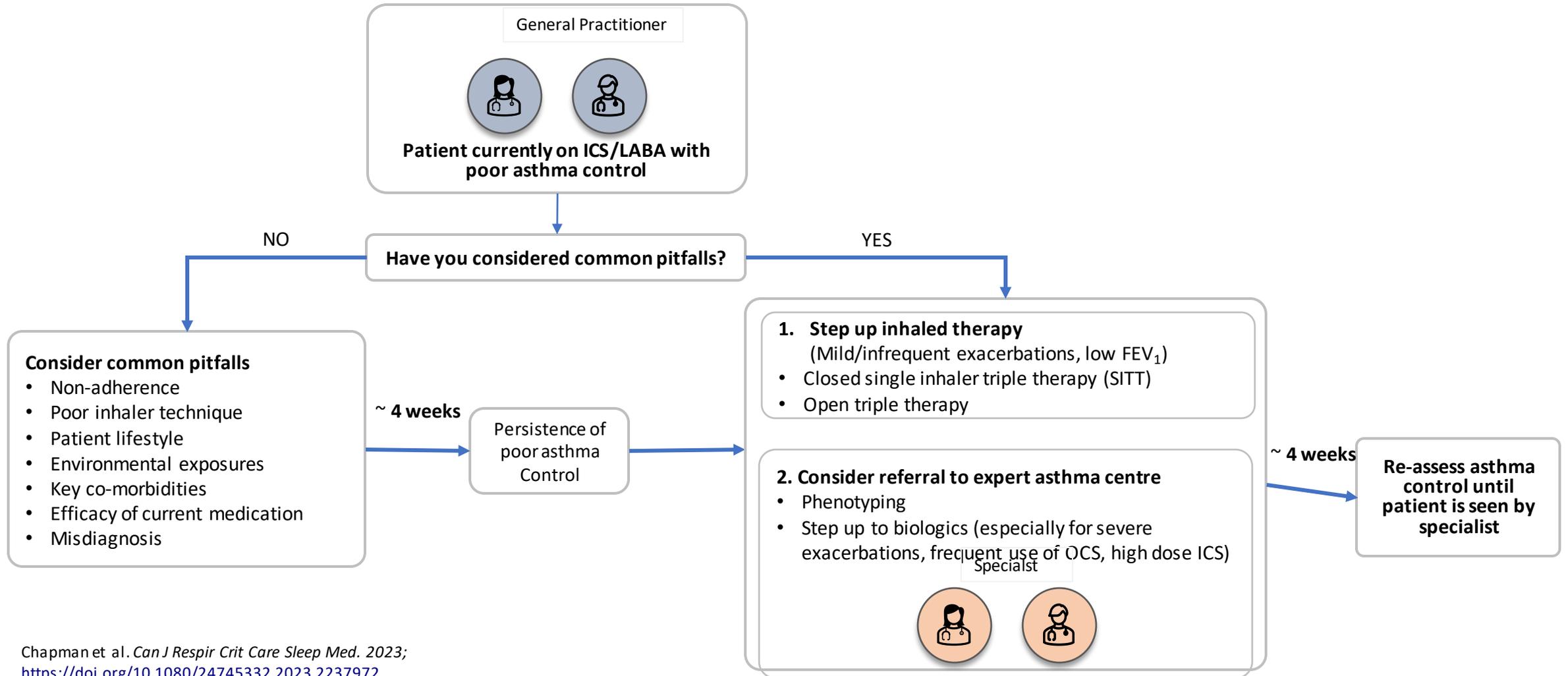
There are two closed SITTs and one open triple therapy available in Canada.

Triple inhaled therapy for asthma in Canada

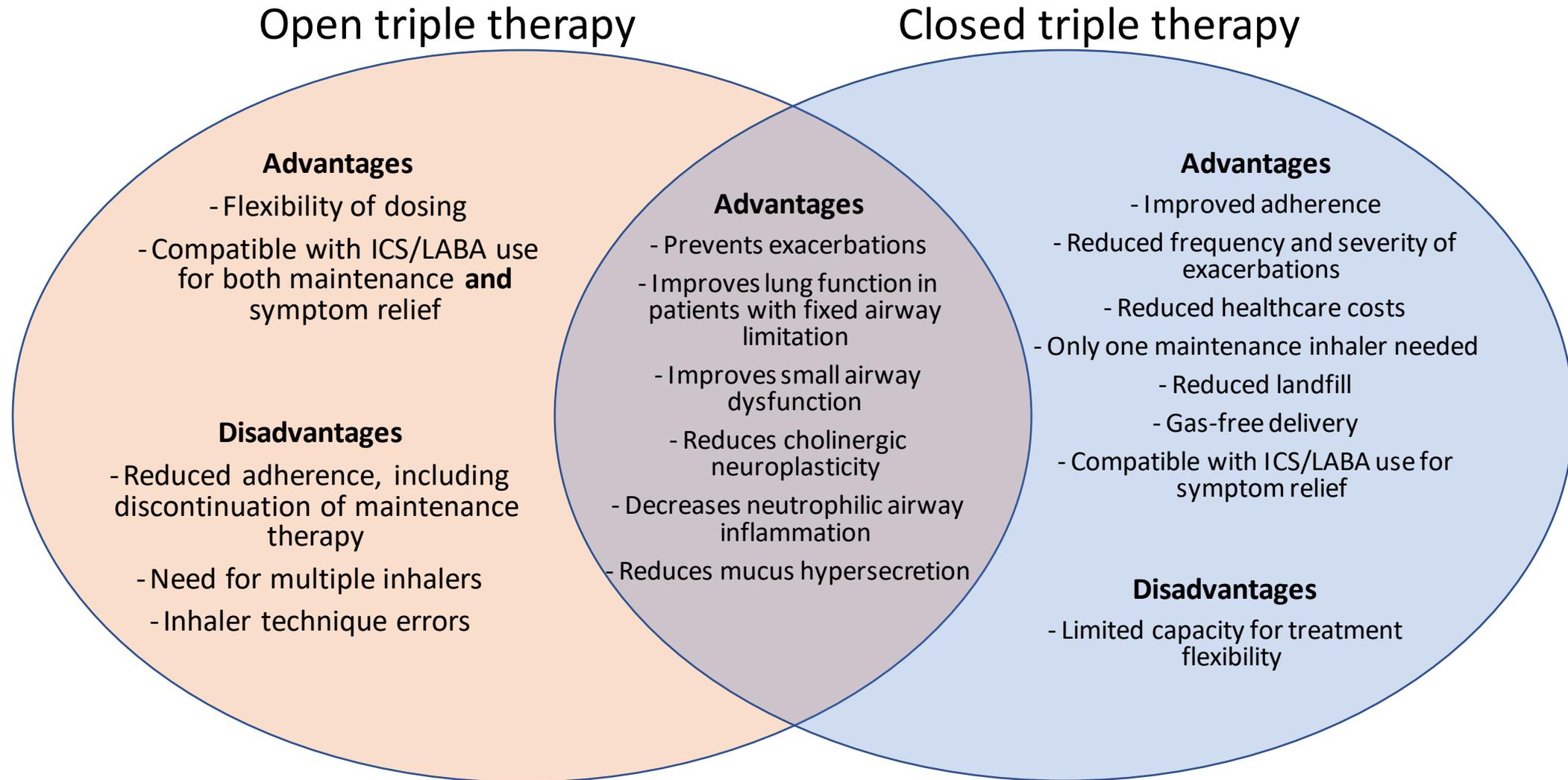
Kenneth R. Chapman^a , Meyer Balter^b, Sacha Bhinder^c, Alan Kaplan^d, Andrew McIvor^e,
Panayiota Papadopoulos^f and Krystelle Godbout^g

^aAsthma & Airway Centre, University Health Network, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; ^bAsthma Education Clinic, Mount Sinai Hospital, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; ^cDepartment of Medicine, Division of Respiriology, Scarborough Health Network, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada; ^dDepartment of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; ^eFirestone Institute for Respiratory Health, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, Ontario, Canada; ^fValeo Pharma Inc, Kirkland, Québec, Canada; ^gInstitut de Cardiologie et Pneumologie de Québec, Université de Laval, Québec City, Québec, Canada

Schematic to assist decisions to initiate triple inhaled therapy



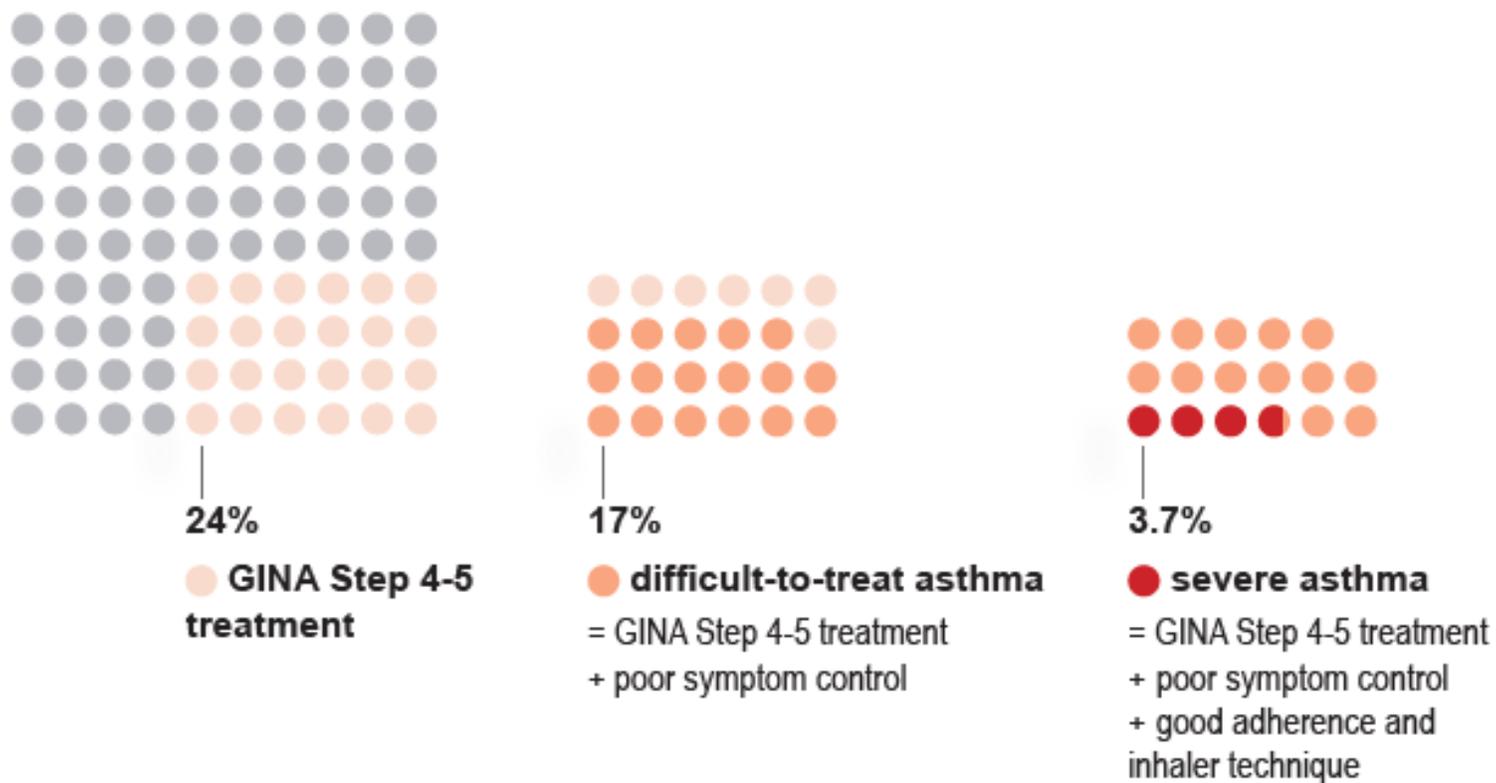
Potential advantages and disadvantages of open and closed triple inhaled therapies



How common is severe asthma?

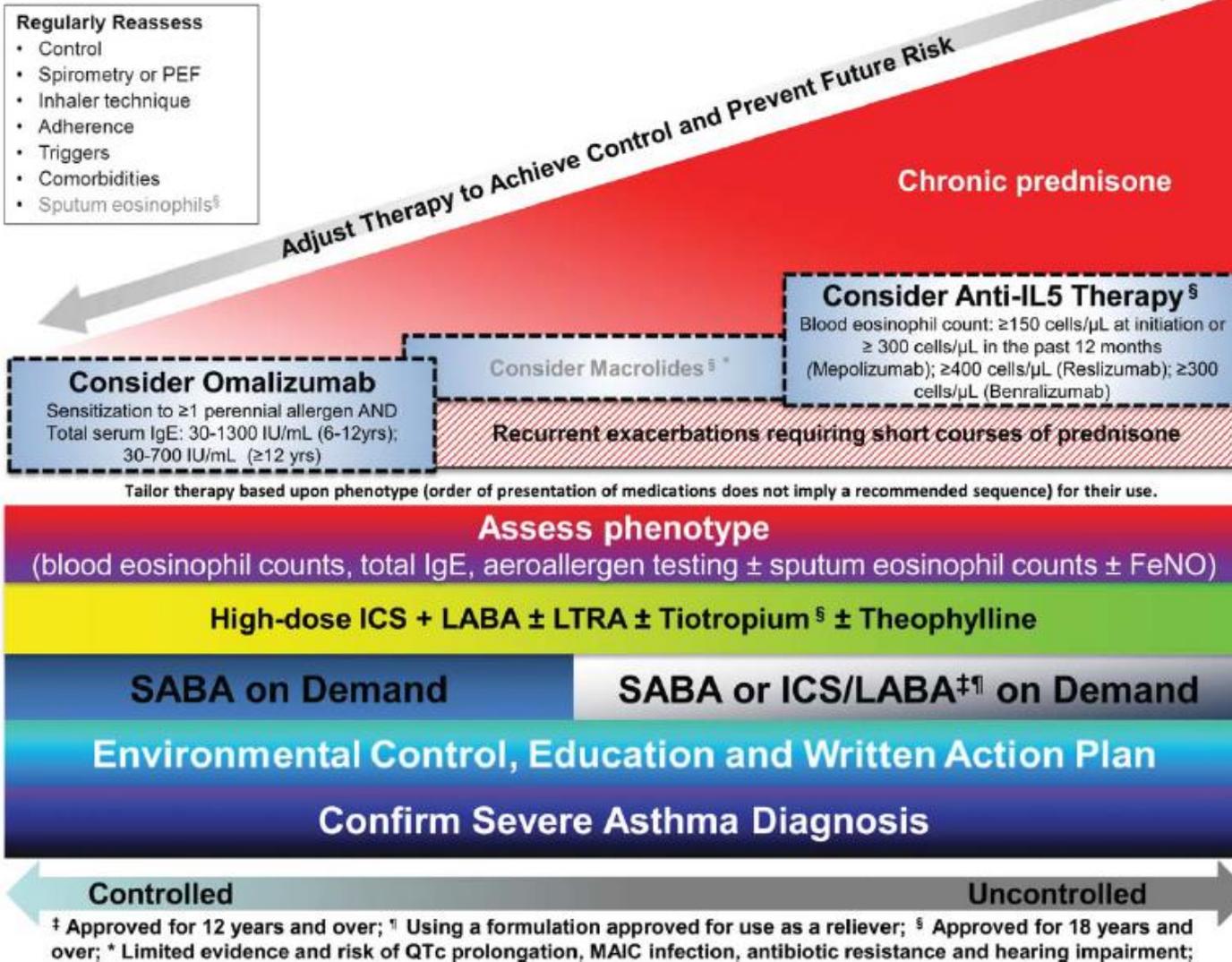


Box 1. What proportion of adults have difficult-to-treat or severe asthma?



These data are from a Dutch population survey of people ≥ 18 years with asthma²

2017 Severe Asthma Management Continuum Children (6 years and over), Adolescents and Adults



Difficult asthma

(poor control despite high-dose ICS and second controller)

Systematic assessment

Diagnosis and endotype

- Confirm the diagnosis, whether current symptoms are due to asthma, assess asthma control, and assess inflammatory endotype

Treatment barriers

- Check adherence, inhaler technique, and possible need for asthma education

Triggers

- Exposures (smoking, allergens, occupational exposures)
- Comorbidities

Manage treatment barriers, aggravating factors and comorbidities, and optimise pharmacological treatment

Continued poor asthma control, not explained by contributing factors

Complex asthma

Difficult-to-treat asthma

Poor asthma control caused by treatment barriers or triggers

Overlaps

Severe asthma

Poor asthma control caused by insufficient response to current standard treatments

Manage treatment barriers, aggravating factors and comorbidities, and optimise pharmacological treatment

People with severe asthma often have other co-existing causes of poor asthma control, mandating a multidimensional management approach to improve treatment outcomes

Prevalence of Comorbidities in Adults with Severe Asthma: Results from the International Severe Asthma Registry (ISAR)G. Scelo et al. ATS 2022

Table. Prevalence of 33 comorbid conditions in adults with severe asthma enrolled in the

Potentially oral corticosteroid (OCS)-related				
Inter	Obesity	44%	4 646	10 715
coun	Hypertension	22%	2 176	9 729
Com	Sleep apnea	21%	2 078	9 698
	Dyslipidemia	18%	1 109	6 280
	Diabetes	11%	1 048	9 801
Pote	Coronary heart disease	9.5%	777	8 160
Aller	Pneumonia	9.0%	815	9 091
Chro	Osteoporosis	7.1%	708	9 922
Nasa	Pulmonary embolism/venous thromboembolism	2.8%	246	8 867
Eczer	Cataract	2.2%	201	8 981
Urtic	Peptic ulcer	2.2%	183	8 330
Food	Renal failure	1.7%	157	9 031
Aller	Glaucoma	1.4%	129	8 975
Aller	Adrenal insufficiency	1.4%	82	5 765
Eosin	Cerebrovascular accident	0.71%	58	8 152
	Aspirin sensitivity	0.96%	62	6 464
	Eosinophilic esophagitis	0.65%	33	5 064

Comorbidities- ISAR PRISM

Figure 1. Co-occurrence of comorbidities across three categories in patients with complete data (N=7,561 patients; 7 countries).

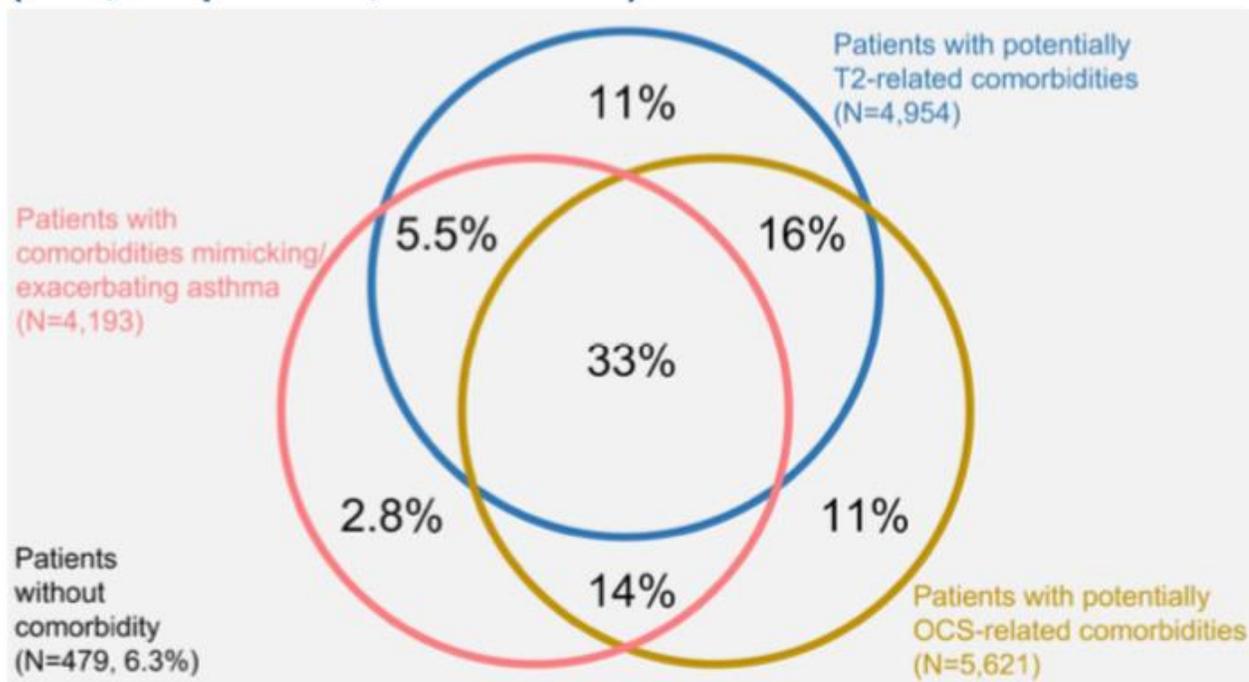
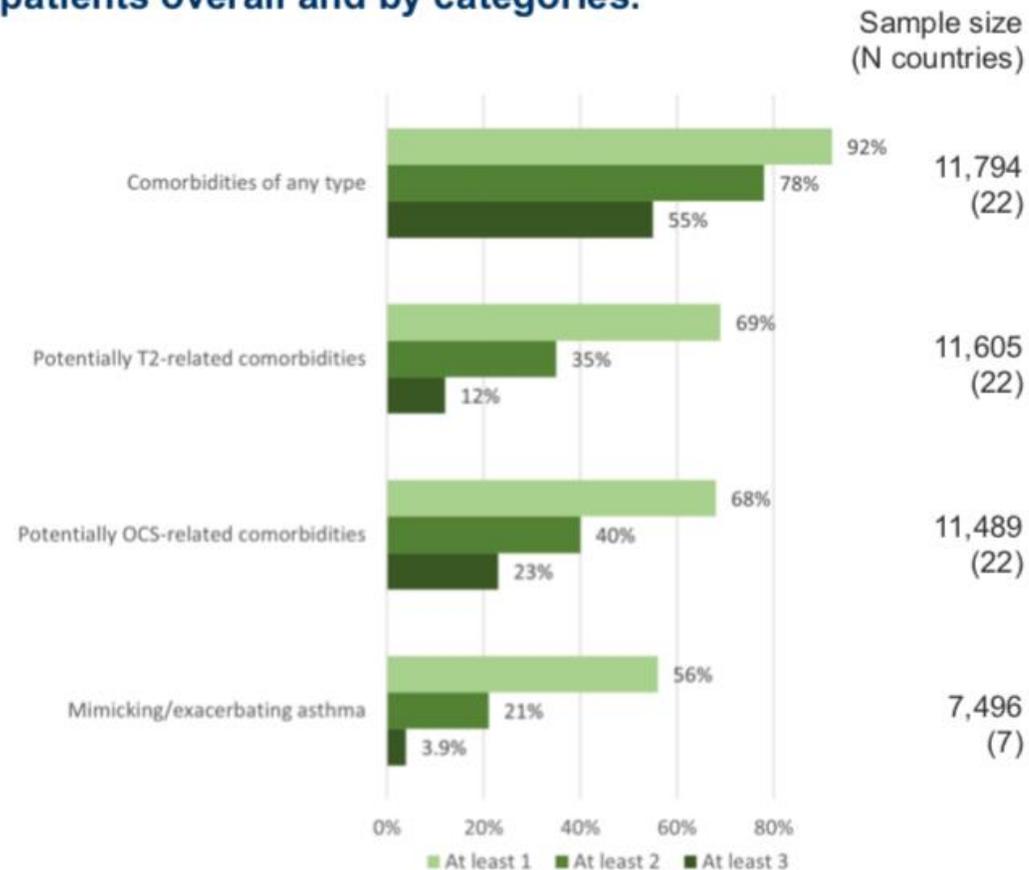


Figure 2. For those with data on at least 3 comorbidities of any type, number of comorbidities reported in ISAR patients overall and by categories.



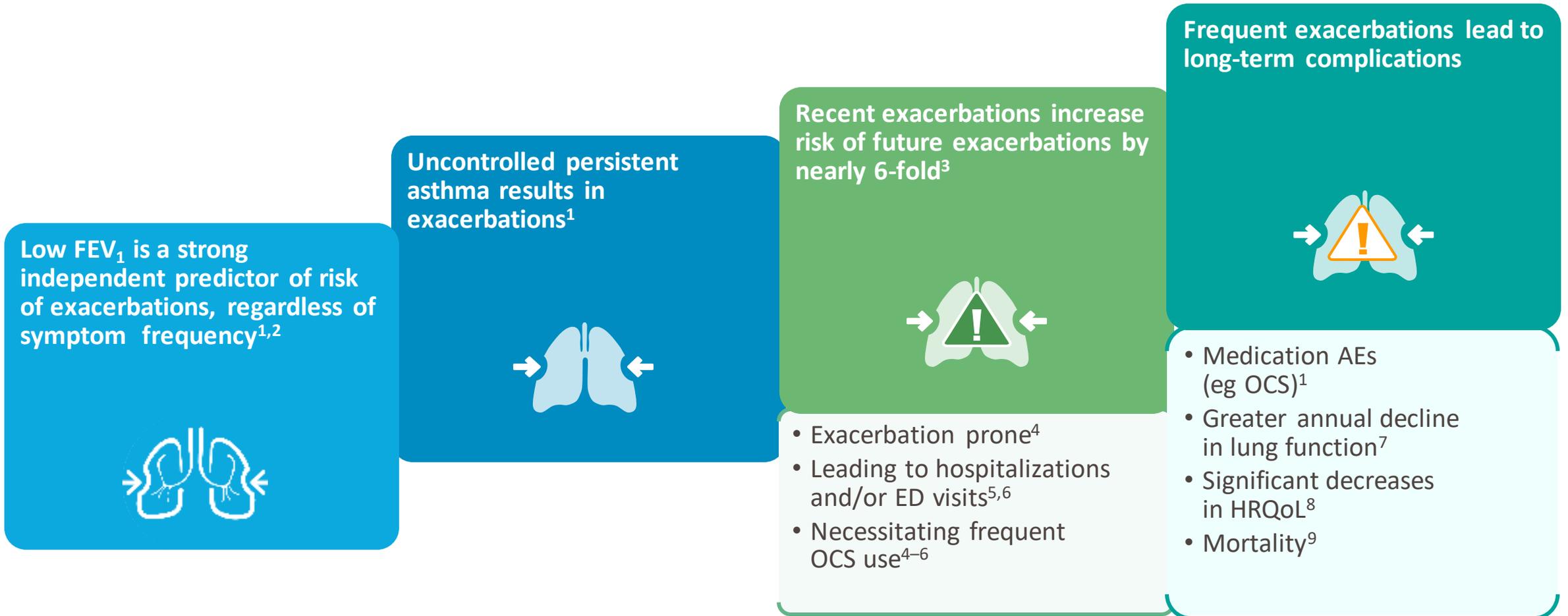
Optimisation of severe asthma control

- Reduction of exacerbations
 - Limit OCS exposure
 - Optimize lung function
- } Reduction in mortality
- **Comorbidities** are highly prevalent and need to be treated
 - T2 related
 - OCS related
 - Mimicking/exacerbating asthma

Risk factors of exacerbations and mortality in adult asthma

Objective 4

Uncontrolled Asthma Poses a Cumulative Burden on Patients



AE, adverse event; ED, emergency department; FEV₁, forced expiratory volume in 1 second; HRQoL, health-related quality of life

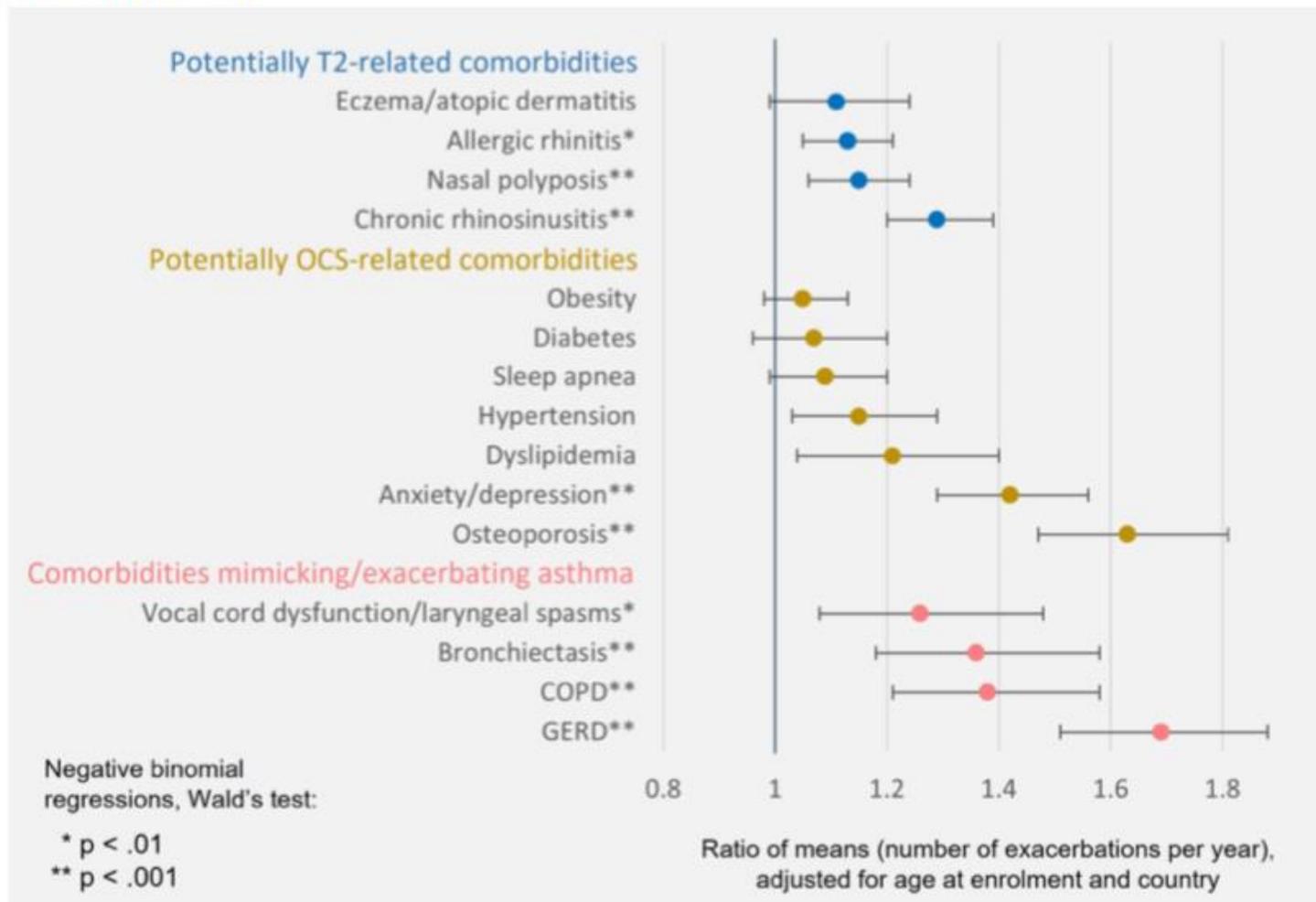
1. GINA. Pocket guide for asthma management and prevention. 2019. Available at: <https://ginasthma.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/GINA-2019-main-Pocket-Guide-wms.pdf>.

Accessed June 2019; 2. Khan A, et al. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol*. 2018;121:S44. Abstract no. P220; 3. Miller MW, et al. *Respir Med*. 2007;101:481–489;

4. Dougherty RH, et al. *Clin Exp Allergy*. 2009;39:193–202; 5. Haselkorn T, et al. *J Allergy Clin Immunol*. 2009;124:895–902; 6. Pola-Bibian B, et al. *J Invest Allergol Clin Immunol*.

2017;27:238–245; 7. Bai TR, et al. *Eur Respir J*. 2007;30:452–456; 8. Lee LK, et al. *J Asthma*. 2018;55:208–219; 9. Sears M. *J Allergy Clin Immunol*. 2008;122:662–668

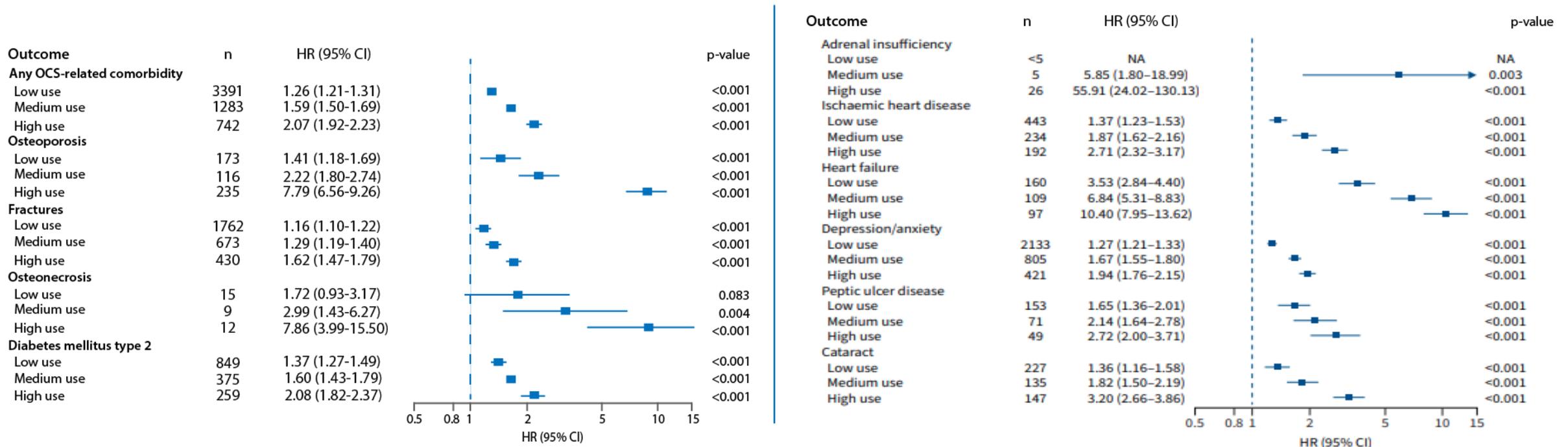
Figure 3. Association between comorbidities and exacerbation rates at enrolment.



Note: Pre-biologic exacerbation rates for patients undergoing biologic therapy.

Oral Corticosteroid (OCS) Use Associated with Increased Risk of Comorbidities among Adults with Asthma

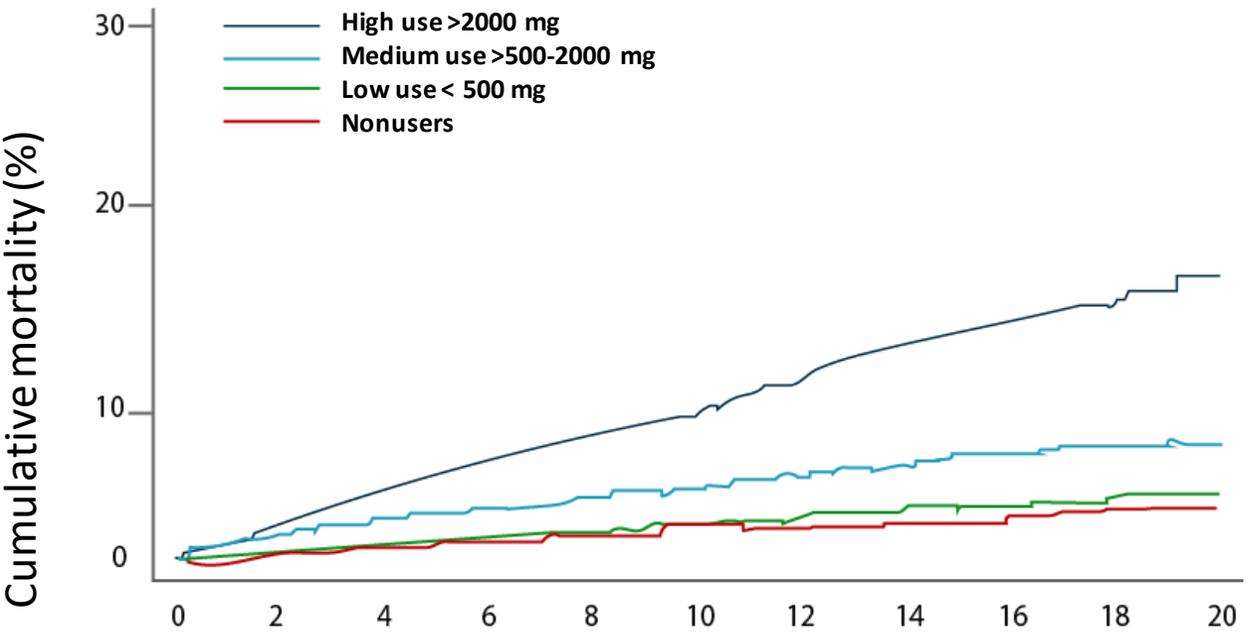
- Danish registers during 1999–2018 and followed prospectively in an open-cohort design
- Even at low cumulative exposure over the course of 20 years, OCS use was associated with increased risk of comorbidities, mortality and unscheduled hospital visits



Use stratified: low use ≤500 mg, medium use >500–2000 mg and high use >2000 mg

Reducing the need for OCS use is pivotal in asthma management.

Twenty-Year Cumulative OCS Use Associated with increased Risk of Mortality among Adults with Asthma



Nationwide Danish asthma population

- OCS users (n=30,352)
- OCS nonusers (n=121,408)

OCS users have 2.2X higher mortality than nonusers.
High users=5.58X

At risk (n):

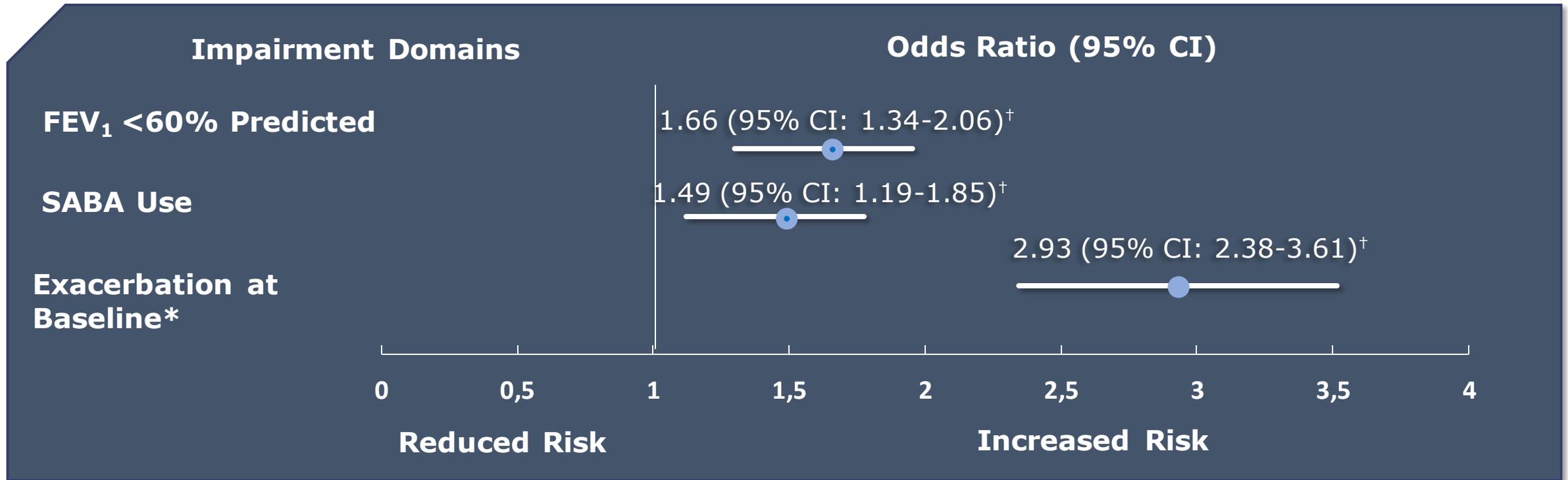
Nonusers	121408	121408	55442	38565	26835	18587	12623	7974	4565	1873
Low use < 500 mg	2885	19550	14953	11693	8905	6569	4712	3116	1836	739
Medium use >500-2000 mg	487	4549	5000	4748	4189	3447	2719	1928	1195	549
High use >2000 mg	980	1745	2071	2196	2123	1941	1659	1303	881	437

Causes of mortality: respiratory specific (1/3), mostly dying from comorbid conditions/treatment side effects (CVD (20%), endo, neuro, mental disorders)

Skov IR, et al. Eur Respir J 2022; 60: 2103054; OCS: oral corticosteroids

Poor Lung Function Is a Significant Predictor of Future Severe Asthma Exacerbations

Predictor of Severe Exacerbation Risk at Month 12 in Patients Aged ≥ 12 Years With Severe or Difficult-to-Treat Asthma From TENOR Study (N=2,094)



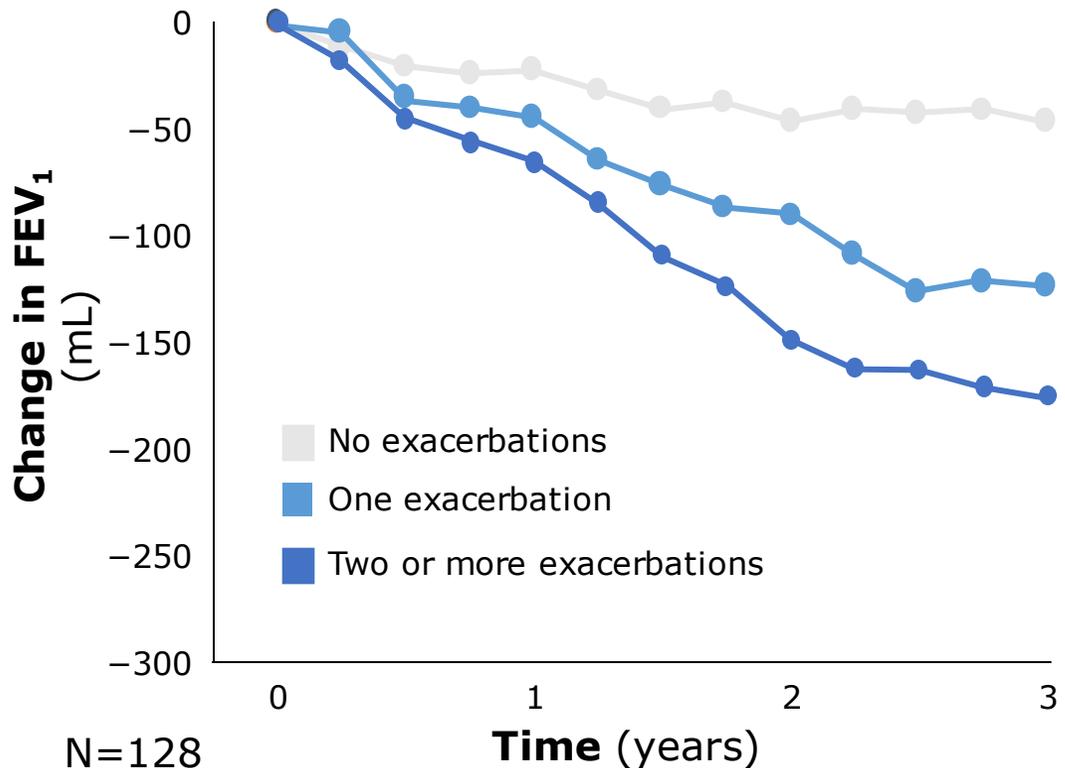
CI=confidence interval; FEV₁=forced expiratory volume in 1 second; SABA=short-acting beta-agonist.

*Defined as a hospitalization, emergency department visit, or a course of corticosteroids at 12 months. [†]P<0.001

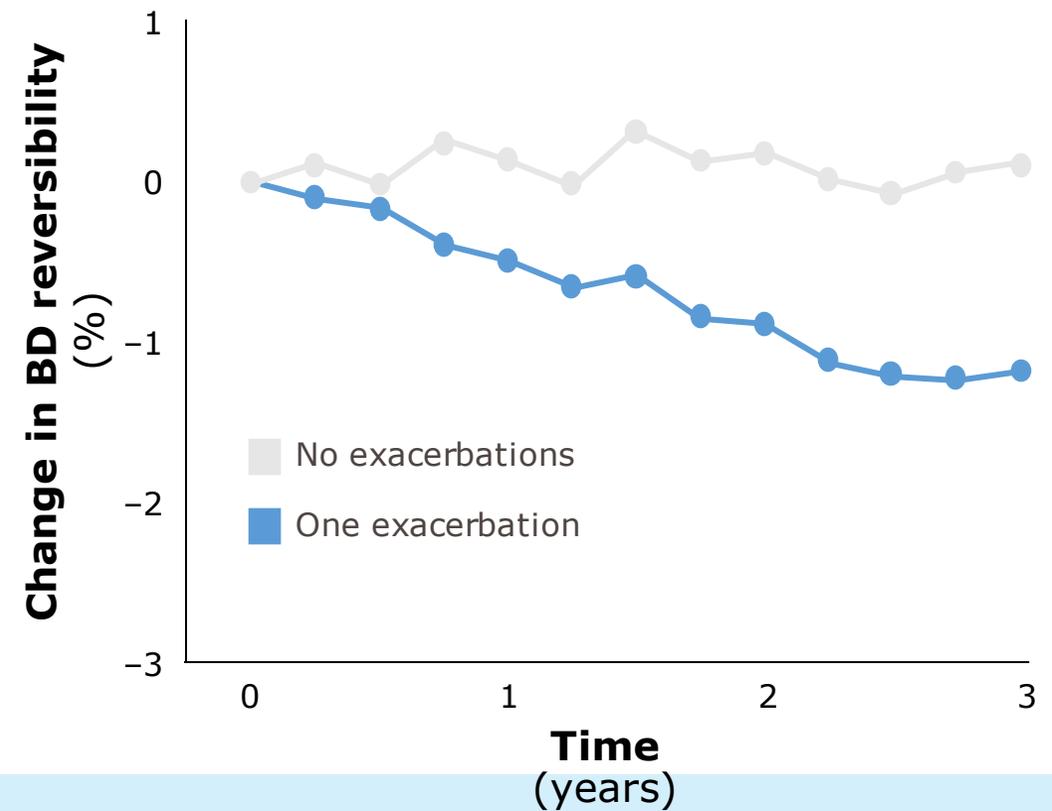
Data from analysis included patients from TENOR study with baseline and month 12 study visits and those with complete baseline data to classify asthma control based on the impairment domain of the 2007 NHLBI guidelines.

Asthma Exacerbations Correlate With Progression of Irreversible Airflow Limitation

Change in Lung Function Over Time in Patients With Controlled and Uncontrolled Asthma



BD Reversibility Over Time in Patients With Controlled and Uncontrolled Asthma

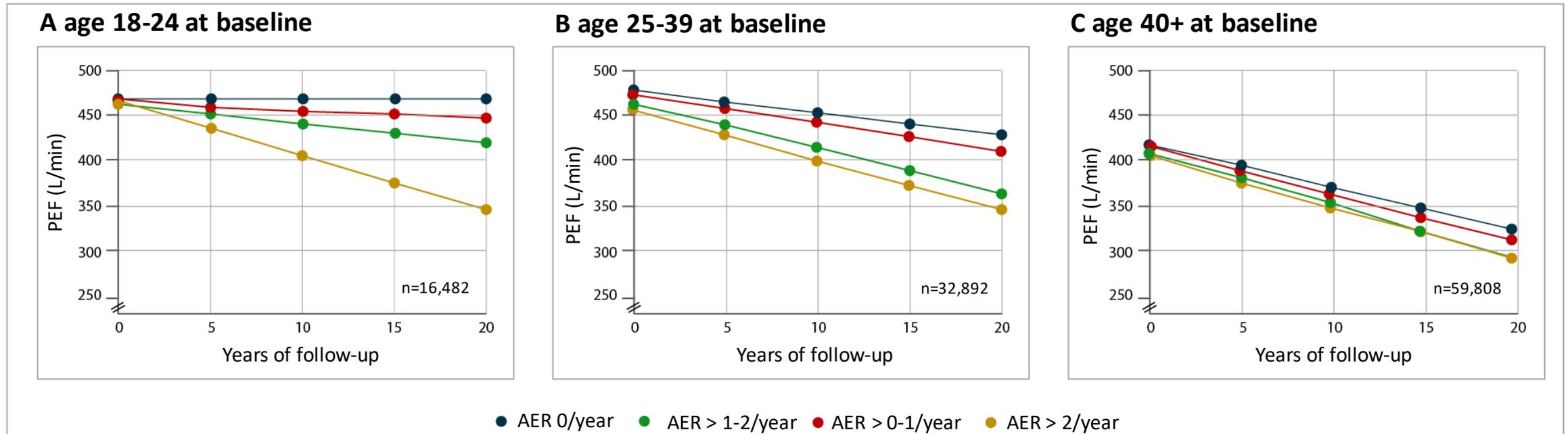


BD=bronchodilator; FEV₁=forced expiratory volume in 1 second.

Reprinted from The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: In Practice, volume 3/issue 5, Matsunaga K, et al. Progression of Irreversible Airflow Limitation in Asthma: Correlation with Severe Exacerbations, pp 759-764.e1. Copyright © 2015, with permission from Elsevier.

Exacerbations defined as events outside the patient's usual range of day-to-day asthma variation, requiring a change in controller therapy.

Asthma Exacerbations Associated with Faster Lung Function Decline



Adjusted 20-year Peak Expiratory Flow (PEF) Trajectories (L/Year) by Annual Exacerbation Rate (AER) Stratified by Patient Age at Baseline

- This 20-year-long, UK-wide observational study of patients with active asthma managed in primary care demonstrates that asthma exacerbations are associated with faster lung function decline.
- Achieving better control decreases the likelihood of lung function decline in any age.

Early identification and intervention of patients with asthma is of value.

Risk factors for asthma exacerbations

a. Risk factors for exacerbations

Uncontrolled asthma symptoms

Having uncontrolled asthma symptoms is an important risk factor for exacerbations.⁹⁸

Factors that increase the risk of exacerbations even if the patient has few asthma symptoms†

- Medications** High SABA use ($\geq 3 \times 200$ -dose canisters/year associated with increased risk of exacerbations, increased mortality particularly if ≥ 1 canister per month)^{74,75,99,100}
- Inadequate ICS: not prescribed ICS, poor adherence,¹⁰¹ or incorrect inhaler technique¹⁰²
- Other medical conditions** Obesity,^{103,104} chronic rhinosinusitis,¹⁰⁴ GERD,¹⁰⁴ confirmed food allergy,¹⁰⁵ pregnancy¹⁰⁶
- Exposures** Smoking,¹⁰⁷ e-cigarettes,¹⁰⁸ allergen exposure if sensitized,¹⁰⁷ air pollution¹⁰⁹⁻¹¹²
- Psychosocial** Major psychological or socioeconomic problems^{113,114}
- Lung function** Low FEV1 (especially $<60\%$ predicted),^{107,115} high bronchodilator responsiveness^{104,116,117}
- Type 2 inflammatory markers** Higher blood eosinophils,^{104,118,119} elevated FeNO (in adults with allergic asthma taking ICS)¹²⁰
- Exacerbation history** Ever intubated or in intensive care unit for asthma,¹²¹ ≥ 1 severe exacerbation in last 12 months^{122,123}

Risk factors for asthma death

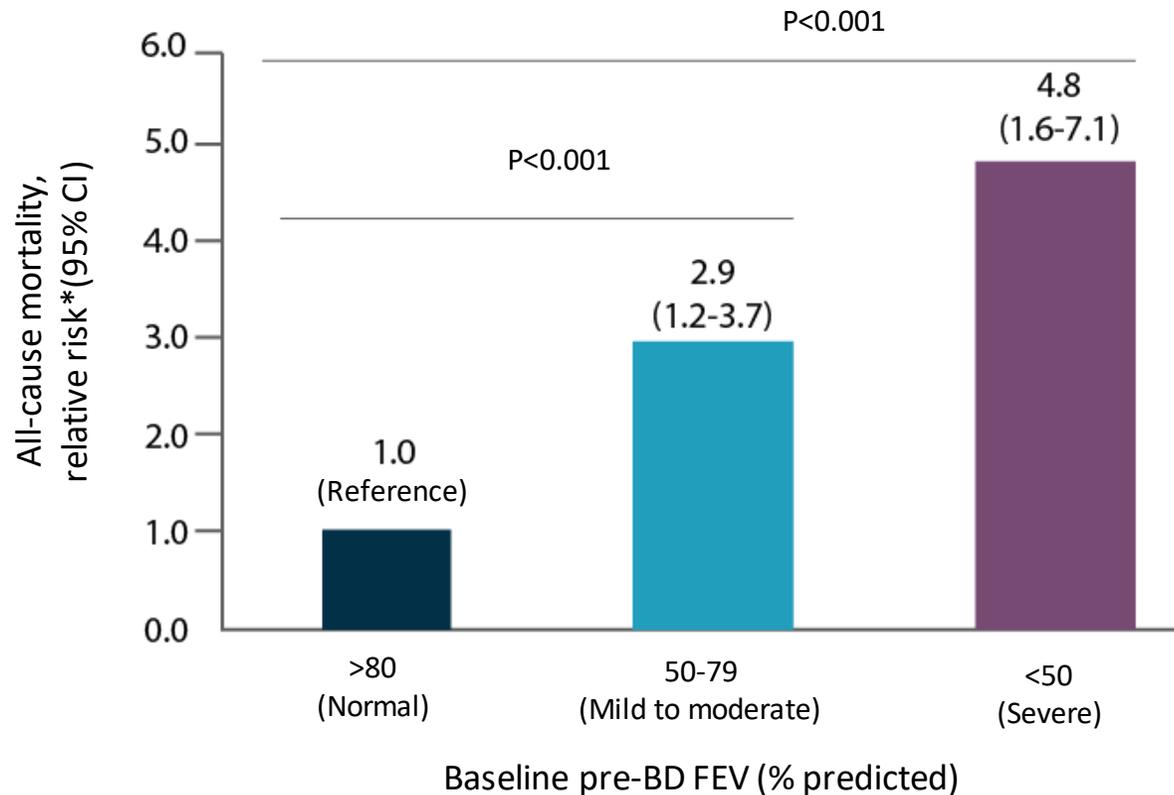
Box 4-1. Factors that increase the risk of asthma-related death

- A history of near-fatal asthma requiring intubation and mechanical ventilation⁶³⁶
- Hospitalization^{636,637} or emergency care visit for asthma in the past year
- Currently using or having recently stopped using oral corticosteroids (a marker of event severity)⁶³⁶
- Not currently using inhaled corticosteroids^{101,636}
- Over-use of short-acting beta₂-agonists (SABAs), especially use of more than one canister of salbutamol (or equivalent) monthly^{75,121,638}
- Poor adherence with ICS-containing medications and/or poor adherence with (or lack of) a written asthma action plan¹¹³
- A history of psychiatric disease or psychosocial problems¹¹³
- Food allergy in a patient with asthma^{499,639}
- Several comorbidities including pneumonia, diabetes and arrhythmias were independently associated with an increased risk of death after hospitalization for an asthma exacerbation.⁶³⁷

See list of abbreviations (p. [10](#)).

Lung Function Decline is Associated with an Increased Mortality Risk

25-year follow up in adult patients with asthma (n=1075)



This 25-year prospective study of adult patients with well-characterized asthma showed a significant increase in mortality mainly due to obstructive lung disease in comparison to matched controls.

Variable	RR	95% CI	P Value
Age			< .001
< 39 y	1.0	...	
40-69 y	3.2	1.1-5.2	
> 70 y	4.8	2.2-6.7	
FEV ₁ % predicted			< .001
> 80	1.0	...	
50-79	2.9	1.2-3.7	
< 50	4.8	1.6-7.1	
Reversibility*			< .01
15%-24%	1.0	...	
25%-49%	3.2	1.4-5.1	
> 50%	4.8	1.6-7.1	
Acute hospital contacts			.002
No	1.0	...	
Yes	2.9	...	
B-eosinophils			< .0001
< .45 mia/L	1.0	...	
> .45 mia/L	4.3	2.5-6.6	

RR = relative risk

*Defined as $(FEV_{1\text{after}} - FEV_{1\text{before}}) \times 100 / FEV_{1\text{before}}$.

The importance of timely identification and appropriate treatment of patients with asthma is of value.

Therapy for severe asthma -biologics

Objective 3

Beyond inhalers...



Possible specialised treatments for uncontrolled severe asthma						
	Anti-IgE	Anti-IL-5/5R	Anti-IL-4/13	Anti-TSLP	Azithromycin	Bronchial thermoplasty
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitised to perennial allergens, allergen driven disease and • Exacerbations or • mOCS use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood eosinophilia (>0.15 or 0.3) and • Exacerbations or • mOCS use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B-eos 0.15–1.5, or FeNO >25 ppb and • Exacerbations or • mOCS use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No phenotype requirements • Exacerbations or • mOCS use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exacerbations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exacerbations • mOCS at most 10 mg of prednisolone per day • Adults only • FEV₁ >60%
Possible predictors of good response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B-eos >0.26 • FeNO >20 ppb • Allergen driven asthma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher blood eosinophils • More exacerbations • CRSwNP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher blood eosinophils • Higher FeNO • CRSwNP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher blood eosinophils • Higher FeNO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colonisation with <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> 	NA
Effective also in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronic spontaneous urticaria • CRSwNP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRSwNP • EGPA • HES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRSwNP • Atopic dermatitis 	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronchiectasis 	NA

Figure 5: Assessment and treatment of severe asthma

Mr. D 66 y-o, mechanic

- Severe asthma
 - Adult onset at age 58 y-o
 - Possible initial trigger: ASA/NSAID
 - No admission, no ICU
- CRS without NP
- Mild atopic dermatitis
- GERD
- OSA on CPAP
- Stroke in 2019
- Ex smoker, 35 p-y, discontinued at age 40
- Allergy: ASA/NSAID causing urticaria

BEC 600

IgE 958

FEV1 38-87%

ANCA neg

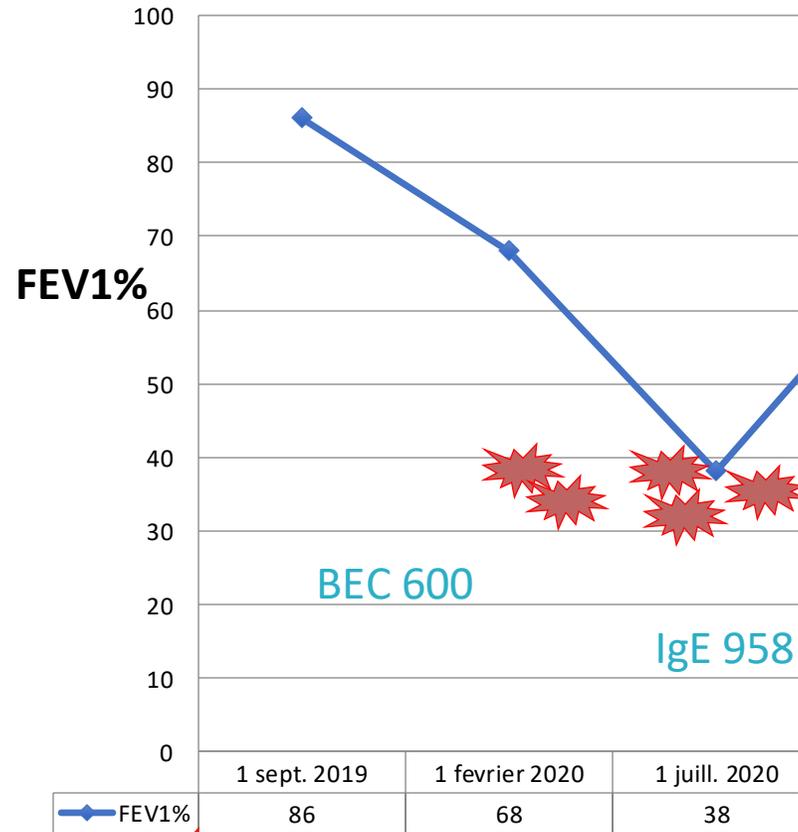
Asp ppt neg

Sinus CT: chronic
pansinusitis

Chest CT: small
airway disease

Mr. D- Adult onset eosinophilic/T2

 Prednisone



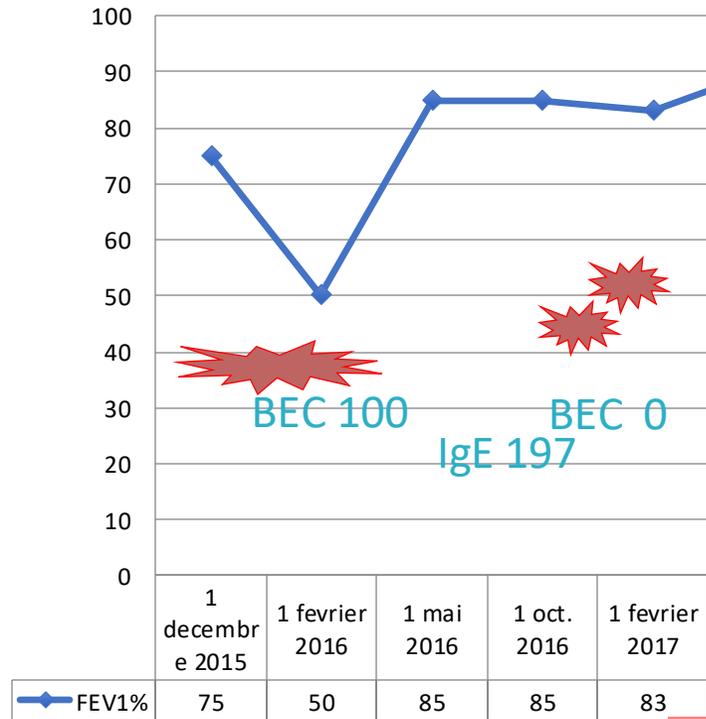
 
Omalizumab

Budesonide/Formoterol + tiotropi

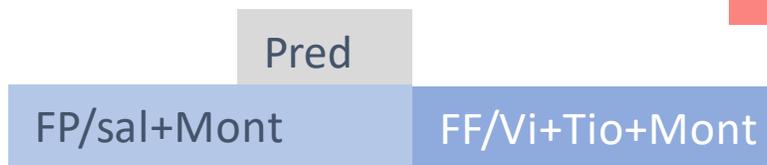
Montelukast, pantoprazole, SR+budeso

Mrs. H – allergic asthma

FEV1%



ACQ 0
FeNO 38

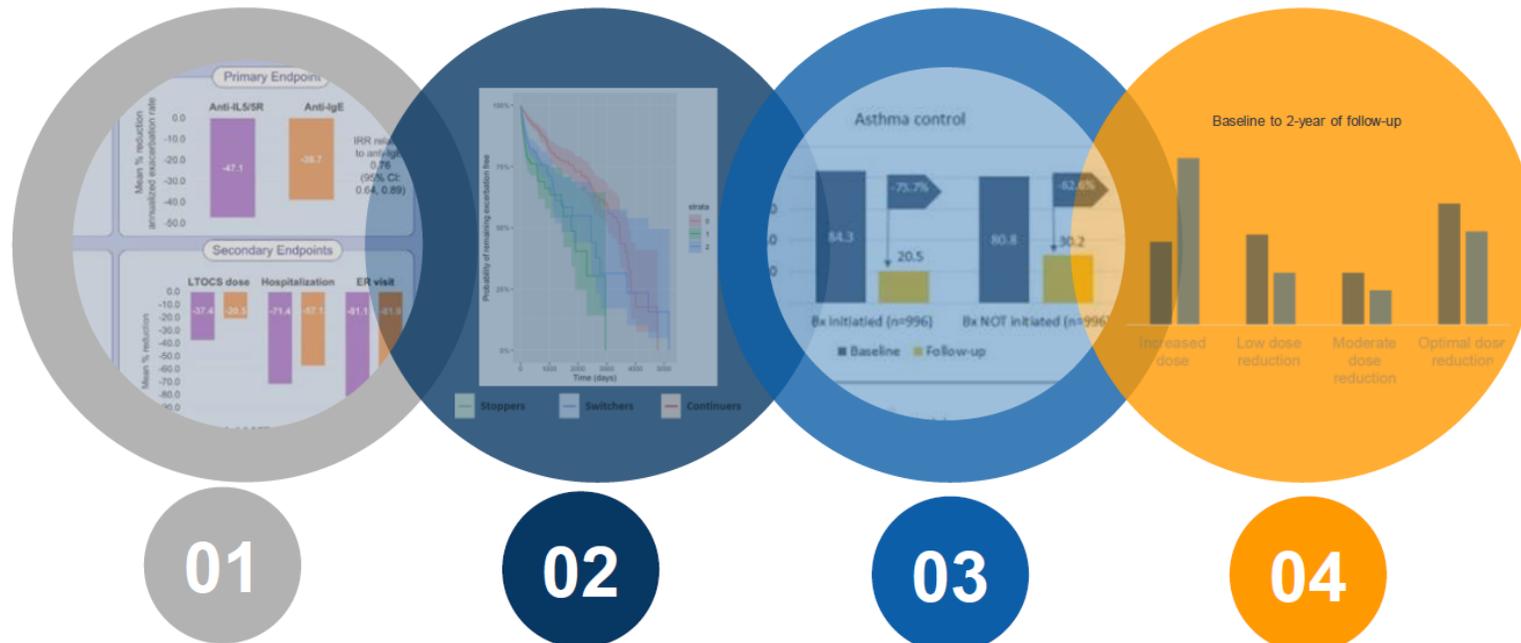


Mepolizumab

- Good asthma and CRS control
- Discontinue Sep 2017 for lightheadness
- Rapid recurrence of sinus symptoms

Research that impacts clinical practice

2. How biologics can change the trajectory



01

02

03

04

A need to determine the ‘right’ biologic when eligible for both

Anti-IL5/5R was superior to anit-IgE in reducing asthma exacerbations and LTOCS use¹

Switchers (compared to continuers) had increased exacerbation rates, a higher LTOCS dose and higher chance of uncontrolled asthma

Receiving and continuing the right biologic leads to better outcomes²

Biologics reduce exacerbations, improve asthma control and reduce OCS use in patients with high steroid exposure³

SOLAR:
Continues to examine biologic impact on OCS exposure
Asks: will this lower likelihood of OCS reduce related adverse outcomes?

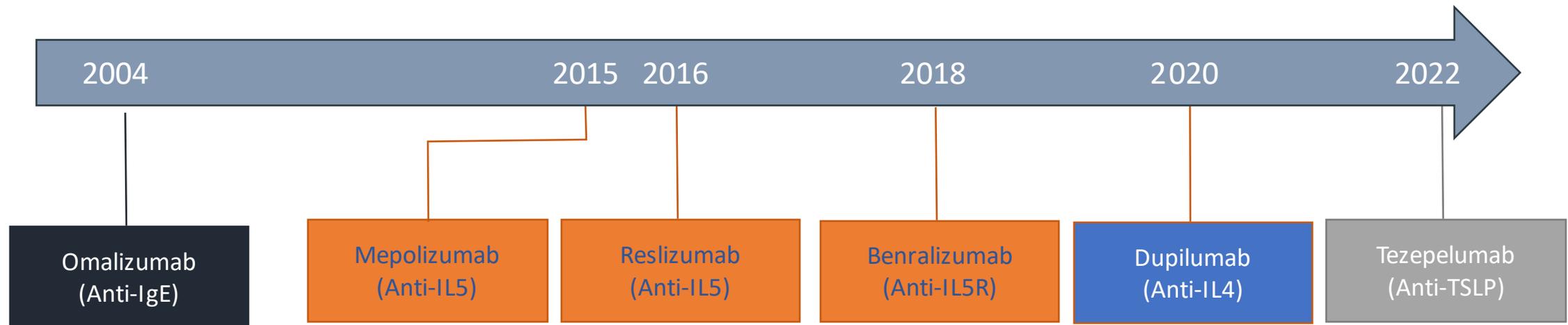
1. FIRE, Comparative effectiveness of Anti-IL5 and Anti-IgE biologic classes in patients with severe asthma eligible for both Pfeffer, P. et al. Allergy. 78. 10.1111/all.15711.

2. CLEAR, clinical outcomes and emergency health care utilization in patients with severe asthma who continued, switched or stopped biologic therapy, Ali N et al. Allergy and Airway 2022;162(4) Suppl A28-32; doi: [10.1016/j.chest.2022.08.020](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chest.2022.08.020)

3. GLITTER II, Impact of initiating biologics in patients with severe asthma on long term or frequent rescue steroids, Chen W et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract 2023, available online June 8 2023

LTOCS: Long Term Oral Corticosteroids, OCS: Oral Corticosteroids, Anti-IL5/5R: Anti- Interleukin 5/5R

Timeline of approvals for biologics for severe asthma in Canada



All categories accessible under Pharmacare

Biologic Therapies for Severe Asthma

Guy G. Brusselle, M.D., Ph.D., and Gerard H. Koppelman, M.D., Ph.D.

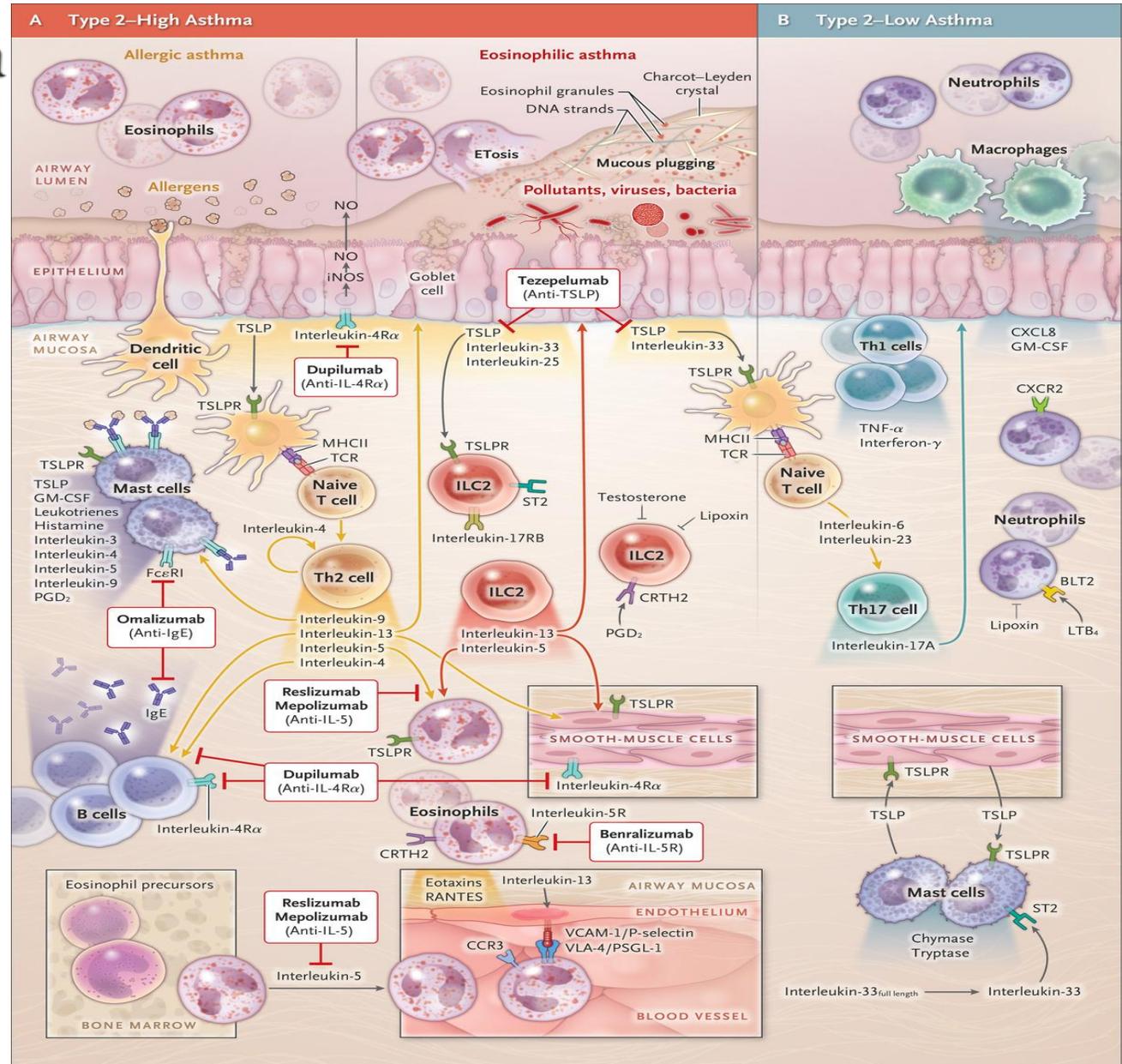


Table 1. Biologic Agents Approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the Treatment of Severe Asthma.*

Biologic Agent (Therapeutic Target and Mechanism of Action)	Route of Administration and Dose†	Forms	Indication	Patient Yr of Age‡	Efficacy	Safety Concerns
Benralizumab (interleukin-5R α ; antibody binds to interleukin-5R α on eosinophils and basophils, depleting them through antibody-dependent, cell-mediated cytotoxicity)	SC; 30 mg every 4 wk (first 3 doses), followed by 30 mg every 8 wk	Prefilled syringe, autoinjector pen	Severe eosinophilic asthma	≥ 12 25-60%	Reduced exacerbations, reduced symptoms, small or moderate effect on FEV ₁ ; decrease or withdrawal of OGs if blood eosinophils >150/ μ l; improved quality of life	Helminthic infections, hypersensitivity reactions, abrupt discontinuation of OGs
Dupilumab (interleukin-4R α ; antibody binds to interleukin-4R α , inhibiting interleukin-4 and interleukin-13 signaling in hematopoietic cells [e.g., B cells, CD4+ helper T cells, and eosinophils], epithelial cells, and airway smooth-muscle cells)	Adults and adolescents: SC; initial dose of 400 mg, followed by 200 mg every 2 wk; for glucocorticoid-dependent patients or patients with concomitant moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis, initial dose of 600 mg, followed by 300 mg every 2 wk Children, ages 6–11 yr: SC; dose depends on body weight‡	Prefilled syringe, autoinjector pen	Severe eosinophilic asthma (FDA), severe type 2 asthma (EMA), OG-dependent asthma; other indications: CRS with nasal polyps, moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis	≥ 6 50-70%	Reduced exacerbations, reduced symptoms, improved lung function; decrease or withdrawal of OGs, irrespective of blood eosinophil count at baseline; improved quality of life	Helminthic infections, hypersensitivity reactions, abrupt discontinuation of OGs, hypereosinophilic conditions (e.g., EGPA), conjunctivitis
Mepolizumab (interleukin-5; antibody binds to circulating interleukin-5)	Adults and adolescents: SC; 100 mg every 4 wk Children, ages 6–11 yr: SC; 40 mg every 4 wk	Prefilled syringe, autoinjector pen	Severe eosinophilic asthma; other indications: EGPA, hypereosinophilic syndrome CRSwNP	≥ 6 50%	Reduced exacerbations, reduced symptoms, small or moderate effect on FEV ₁ ; reduction or withdrawal of OGs if blood eosinophils >150/ μ l; improved quality of life	Helminthic infections, hypersensitivity reactions, abrupt discontinuation of OGs, herpes zoster infections (rare)
Omalizumab (IgE; antibody binds to Fc part of free IgE, inhibiting binding of IgE to Fc ϵ R1 on mast cells and basophils and Fc ϵ R2 on dendritic cells and eosinophils)	SC; 75 to 375 mg every 2 to 4 wk according to body weight and pretreatment level of serum total IgE	Prefilled syringe	Severe allergic asthma; other indication: chronic idiopathic urticaria	≥ 6 ~25%	Reduced exacerbations, reduced symptoms, small effect on FEV ₁ ; improved quality of life	Serum sickness, hypereosinophilic conditions (e.g., EGPA), abrupt discontinuation of OGs; black-box warning for anaphylaxis (occurring in $\pm 0.2\%$ of patients)
Reslizumab (interleukin-5; antibody binds to circulating interleukin-5)	IV; 3 mg/kg every 4 wk	IV infusion	Severe eosinophilic asthma	≥ 18 50-60%	Reduced exacerbations, reduced symptoms, small or moderate effect on FEV ₁ ; improved quality of life	Helminthic infections, abrupt discontinuation of OGs; black-box warning for anaphylaxis (occurring in $\pm 0.3\%$ of patients)
Tezepelumab (TSLP)	SC; 210 mg every 4 wk	Prefilled syringe	Severe asthma	≥ 12 40-71%	Reduced exacerbations, reduced symptoms, improved lung function; improved quality of life	Pharyngitis, arthralgia, back pain

* CRS denotes chronic rhinosinusitis, EGPA eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis, EMA European Medicines Agency, Fc ϵ R1 high-affinity receptor for the Fc region of IgE, Fc ϵ R2 low-affinity receptor for the Fc region of IgE, FDA Food and Drug Administration, FEV₁ forced expiratory volume in 1 second, interleukin-4R α interleukin-4 receptor α , interleukin-5R α interleukin-5 receptor α , IV intravenous, OGs oral glucocorticoids, SC subcutaneous, and TSLP thymic stromal lymphopoietin.

† Information on dose and age is for patients with severe asthma as the main indication.

‡ For pediatric patients, ages 6 to 11 yr, with a body weight of 15 kg to less than 30 kg, the recommended dose of dupilumab is 100 mg every 2 wk or 300 mg every 4 wk; for children with a body weight of 30 kg or more, the dose is 200 mg every 2 wk.

ADA

12%

9%

6%

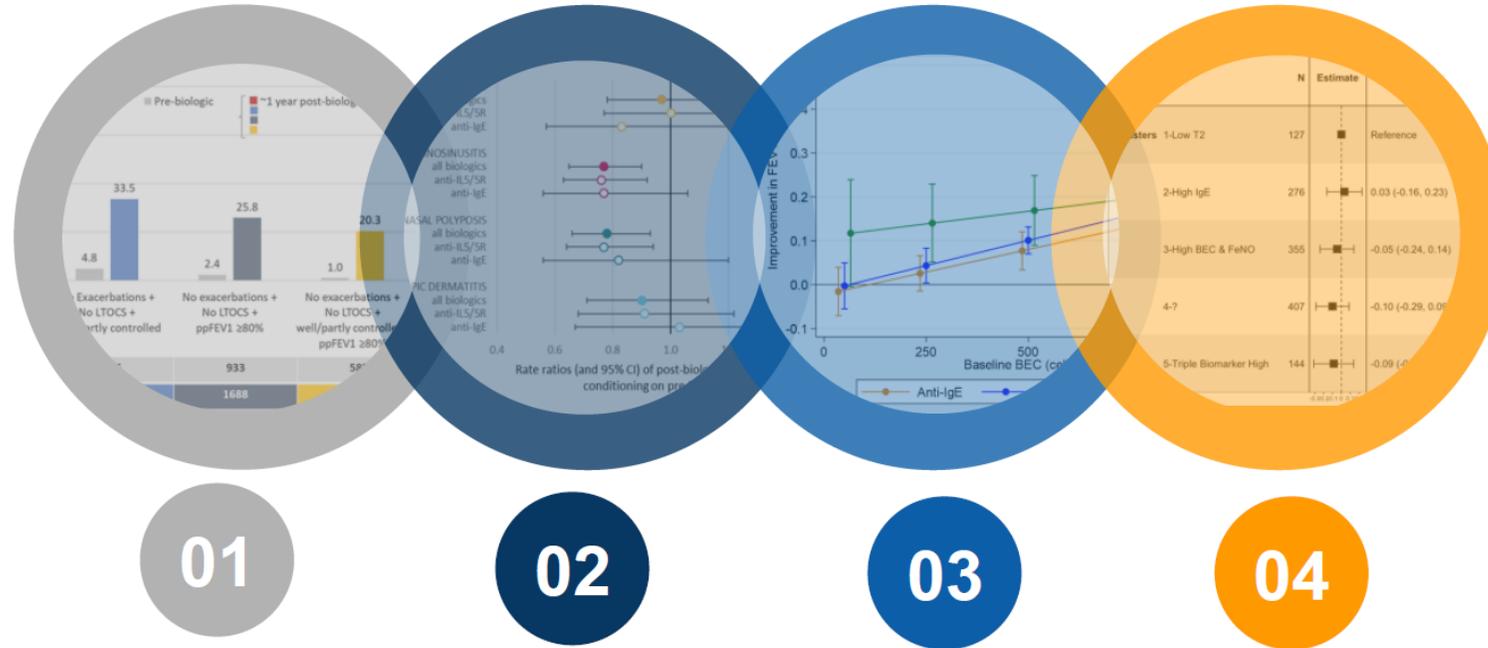
<0.1%

5%

4.9%

Biologics	Indications in Canada	Formulations available
<p>Omalizumab (Xolair) \$8,137-\$48,824/year depending on dose</p>	<p>Allergic asthma either moderate or severe – has one or more of the following: Asthma symptoms every day Daily need for a rescue inhaler 2 or more asthma attacks a week 1 or more nights a week waking up with asthma symptoms Below normal readings (less than 80%) peak flows IgE level must be between 72-1680mcg/L Positive skin prick test or in vitro reactivity allergen test results</p>	<p>Subcu: vial, pre-filled</p>
<p>Mepolizumab (Nucala) \$25,269/year</p>	<p>severe eosinophilic asthma - inadequately controlled with high-dose corticosteroids and an additional asthma controller (<i>e.g. long acting beta₂-adrenergic agonist (LABA)</i>) blood eosinophils count ≥ 0.15GI/L at initiation of treatment and on maintenance OCS for > 6 months OR blood eosinophils count ≥ 0.3GI/L in the previous 12 months + ≥ 2 exacerbations in the previous 12 months</p>	<p>Subcu: vial, pre-filled, auto-injector</p>
<p>Benralizumab (Fasenra) \$31,015 for the first year and then \$25,200 for subsequent years</p>	<p>severe eosinophilic asthma and is 18 years or older on maintenance add on treatment blood eosinophil count ≥ 0.3GI/L and experienced ≥ 2 clinically significant exacerbations in the past 12 months OR blood eosinophil count ≥ 0.15GI/L and treated chronically with OCS</p>	<p>Subcu: vial or pre-filled</p>
<p>Reslizumab (Cinqair) \$8,349-\$33,394/year</p>	<p>severe eosinophilic asthma and is 18 years or older inadequately controlled with medium to high dose of inhaled corticosteroids and an additional asthma controller(s) (<i>e.g. LABA</i>) blood eosinophil level count of ≥ 0.4 GI/L at initiation of treatment</p>	<p>IV</p>
<p>Dupilumab (Dupixent) \$25,000/year</p>	<p>severe eosinophilic asthma or OCS dependent asthma inadequately controlled with medium to high dose of inhaled corticosteroids and an additional asthma controller AND for Fast start program Blood EOS ≥300 cell/uL, and ≥2 exacerbations, OR OCS dependence and blood EOS ≥150 cell/uL</p>	<p>Subcu: Pre-filled syringes SA : 400 mg initial dose then 200 mg q2w SA+OCS, AD or CRSwNP: 600 mg initial dose then 300 mg q2w</p>
<p>Tezepelumab (Tezspire) \$26 000/year</p>	<p>Severe asthma and is 12 years or older Inadequately controlled with high dose ICS (minimum 500 mcg fluticasone proprionate or equivalent) and an additional asthma controller(s) (<i>e.g. LABA</i>) Has experienced two or more clinically significant asthma exacerbations in the past 12 months (Systemic corticosteroids for at least three days, emergency room visit, or hospitalization)</p>	<p>Subcu 210 mg Q 4 weeks</p>

3. What is possible in response and remission?



Data suggests earlier intervention predicts greater likelihood of remission¹

T2 comorbidities may predict biologic effectiveness
Important to proactively assess for T2 comorbidities²

Baseline BEC and FeNO associated with greater improvement in FEV1³

Less improvement in exacerbations with biologic therapy in Low T2 cluster⁴

1. FULL BEAM: Defining and characterizing responders and non-responders to biologic treatment in severe asthma
 2. PRISM II: ImPact of comorbidity In Severe asthma patients
 3. IGNITE: Association between post-treatment outcomes and pre-biologic BEC
 4. EMBER Objective 3: Investigate non T2 and T2 asthma group responses to intervention with biologics
 T2: Type 2, FEV1: Forced Expiratory Volume 1 second, BEC: Blood eosinophil count

LUMINANT: assessing response in severe asthma

Biologic Responders And Super-responders in the International Severe Asthma Registry ATS 2023

Table 1. Single domain definition of response and super-response in patients with severe asthma between baseline and month 12 visit

Domain	Definition of responders	Definition of super-responders	Excluded from analysis
Asthma exacerbations	≥ 50% reduction in annualised exacerbation rate	Exacerbation elimination	Zero annualised exacerbations at baseline
FEV₁	≥ 100 mL improvement in post bronchodilator FEV ₁	≥ 500 mL improvement in post bronchodilator FEV ₁	Not applicable
Asthma control	Improved asthma control by category (controlled, partial, poor)	New attainment of well-controlled asthma	Well-controlled asthma at baseline
Long-term oral corticosteroid (LTOCS) burden	Reduction in LTOCS (mg)	Cessation of LTOCS or weaning to adrenal insufficiency dose ≥ 5 mg	Not on LTOCS at baseline

Table 2: Baseline characteristics of the total LUMINANT cohort, those who were initiated on biologics and those who were not

	Biologic n = 2116	Non-biologic n = 6330	P-value
DEMOGRAPHICS			
Sex (female), % (n/N)	62% (1311 / 2116)	62% (3893 / 6330)	0.71
White race, % (n/N)	78% (1471 / 1876)	79% (4380 / 5573)	
Age (years), mean ± SD (n)	53 ± 15 (2115)	58 ± 17 (6335)	<0.001
BMI, mean ± SD (n)	29.1 ± 7 (1862)	29.6 ± 8 (4995)	0.03
Smoking status never smoker, % (n/N)	62% (1309 / 2116)	45% (2858 / 6335)	<0.001
Asthma onset, mean ± SD (n)	29 ± 19 (1449)	31 ± 20 (2126)	<0.001
ASTHMA STATUS			
Baseline FEV ₁ pre-bronchodilator, mean ± SD (n)	1.9 ± 0.8 (1516)	2.1 ± 0.8 (3678)	<0.001
FEV ₁ reversibility, % (n)	16% (178)	12% (346)	<0.001
Poor asthma control, % (n/N)	75% (973 / 1299)	56% (1277 / 2268)	<0.001
Baseline annualised exacerbations, mean ± SD (n)	3.8 ± 4 (1711)	1.6 ± 2 (2688)	<0.001
Baseline annualised exacerbations (categorical), %			
0	11%	30%	
1-3	48%	58%	
4-5	20%	7%	<0.001
≥ 6	21%	5%	
LTOCS, % (n/N)	43% (901 / 2116)	14% (878 / 6335)	<0.001
Anti-IgE, % (n)	38% (809)	N/A	
Anti-IL-5/5R, % (n)	59% (1242)	N/A	
Anti-IL-4/13, % (n)	3% (63)	N/A	
BIOMARKERS			
Blood eosinophil count, mean ± SD (n)	598 ± 893 (504)	617 ± 820 (954)	0.7
FeNO (ppb), mean ± SD (n)	49 ± 46 (800)	47 ± 46 (1532)	0.3
IgE, mean ± SD (n)	443 ± 1003 (1273)	417 ± 1306 (2441)	0.5
Sensitised to perennial allergens, % (n/N)	39% (671 / 1724)	44% (1844 / 4177)	0.001

- Response was more frequently achieved among participants initiating biologics versus those not initiating biologics (Figure 4, Table 2)

LUMINANT: assessing response in severe asthma

Figure 1. Proportion of responders (orange), super-responders (yellow) and non-responders (blue) across single domains in those initiated on biologics, with ≥ 24 weeks follow up, and those who were not initiated on biologics

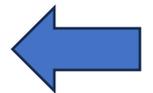


Table 3. Proportion of patients that met the criteria of a single domain of response among those who did and did not initiate a biologic medication between the baseline and follow-up visit

	Biologic	Non-biologic	p-value
RESPONSE, % (n/N)			
Exacerbation reduced $\geq 50\%$	59% (806 / 1375)	44% (359 / 814)	<0.001
FEV ₁ improved ≥ 100 mL	54% (358 / 665)	34% (354 / 1048)	<0.001
Asthma control improved	49% (524 / 1072)	42% (299 / 706)	0.007
LTOCS dose reduced	49% (255 / 517)	28% (32 / 112)	<0.001
SUPER-RESPONSE, % (n/N)			
Exacerbation elimination	27% (442 / 1620)	12% (242 / 1967)	<0.001
FEV ₁ improved ≥ 500 mL	19% (124 / 665)	8% (86 / 1048)	<0.001
New good asthma control	30% (318 / 1072)	25% (196 / 706)	0.016
LTOCS super-response	39% (200 / 517)	22% (25 / 112)	<0.001

Conclusions

- Patients with severe asthma who initiated biologics had greater disease severity at baseline than those who did not initiate biologics, but biomarker levels were similar
- Only 5.3% of study participants met even basic criteria for clinical trials
- Clinical response and super-response to biologics was observed in all four domains
- Super-response was more frequent amongst biologic initiators than non-initiators
- In the context of differing baseline impairment, response to biologics may differ by biologic class



An expert consensus framework for asthma remission as a treatment goal



Andrew Menzies-Gow, PhD,^a Mona Bafadhel, PhD,^b William W. Busse, MD,^c Thomas B. Casale, MD,^d Janwillem W. H. Kocks, MD, PhD,^{e,f,g} Ian D. Pavord, MD,^b Stanley J. Szeffler, MD,^h Prescott G. Woodruff, MD,ⁱ Alexander de Giorgio-Miller, PhD,^j Frank Trudo, MD,^k Malin Fageras, PhD,^l and Christopher S. Ambrose, MD^m
 London, Oxford, and Cambridge, United Kingdom; Madison, Wis; Tampa, Fla; Groningen, The Netherlands; Singapore; Aurora, Colo; San Francisco, Calif; Wilmington, Del; Gothenburg, Sweden; and Gaithersburg, Md

Clinical Remission on Treatment

For ≥ 12 months:

- Sustained absence of significant asthma symptoms based on validated instrument, **and**
- Optimization and stabilization of lung function, **and**
- Patient and HCP agreement regarding disease remission, **and**
- No use of systemic corticosteroid therapy for exacerbation treatment or long-term disease control

Clinical Remission off Treatment

Same criteria maintained without asthma treatment for ≥ 12 months

Complete Remission on Treatment

Clinical remission plus the following:

- Current, objective evidence of the resolution of previously documented asthma-related inflammation (eg, reduced blood or sputum eosinophil counts, FENO, and/or other relevant measures), **and**
- In appropriate research settings: Current negative bronchial hyperresponsiveness

Complete Remission off Treatment

Same criteria maintained without asthma treatment for ≥ 12 months

FIG 1. Generalized framework for remission in asthma. Criteria for clinical and complete remission, on and off treatment, were identified by consensus among clinical experts. FENO, Fractional exhaled nitric oxide.
 *Blood eosinophil counts and FENO are less relevant for T2-low asthma.

BEAM - remission

Clinical remission following biologic initiation in severe asthma: results of the International Severe Asthma Registry (ISAR)

G. Scelo,¹ T. N. Tran,² T. T. Le,² M. Fargás,³ N. Martin,⁴ A. N. Menzies-Gow,⁴ E. Wang,⁵ M. E. Wechsler,⁶ G. W. Canonica,⁷ E. Heffler,⁸ L. G. Heaney,⁹ D. J. Jackson,¹⁰ P. E. Pfeffer,¹¹ J. Busby,¹² C. M. Porsbjerg,¹³ M. Hew,¹⁴ M. Peters,¹⁵ P. G. Gibson,¹⁶ M. Al-Ahmad,¹⁷ C. Bergeron,¹⁸ M. Sadatsafavi,¹⁹ L. Perez-De-Llano,²⁰ B. G. Cosio,²¹ P. Kuna,²² D. W. Perng,²³ T. Iwanaga,²⁴ C. A. Torres-Duque,²⁵ D. Larenas-Linnemann,²⁶ B. Mahboub,²⁷ R. Al-Lehebi,²⁸ J. A. Fonseca,²⁹ C. K. Rhee,³⁰ J. Máspero,³¹ M. S. Koh,³² G. C. Christoff,³³ T. A. Popov,³⁴ J. Kwiatek,³⁵ V. Carter,¹ C. Goh,¹ L. Bulathsinhala,¹ A. Beastall,¹ D. Price³⁶

¹Observational and Pragmatic Research Institute, Singapore, Optimum Patient Care Global Cambridge (UK); ²BioPharmaceuticals Medical, AstraZeneca - Galthersburg, MD (USA); ³BioPharmaceuticals Medical, AstraZeneca - Gothenburg (Sweden); ⁴BioPharmaceuticals Medical, AstraZeneca - Cambridge (UK); See QrC for all affiliations

Why did we perform this research?

- Despite the emergence of common domains of asthma remission, there is little agreement on clinically useful criteria for identifying remission in real-life.
- Our aim was to explore different definitions of remission using multiple asthma outcome domains, and to quantify the prevalence of remission when treated with biologics using these definitions in adults with severe asthma.

How did we perform this research?

Methods

- This was a registry-based cohort study including data from 23 countries sharing data with ISAR between May 1st 2017 and Dec 5th 2022.
- Pre and post-biologic outcomes were described across 4 domains: exacerbation rate, LTOCS daily dose, asthma control status and ppFEV₁, and remission defined using various combinations of these domains using strict and alternate criteria (See Figure 1).
- Patients were aged ≥18 years with severe asthma, with pre- and post-biologic data for ≥1 domain.

Figure 1: study design

Remission definitions	Exacerbations	LTOCS daily dose	Asthma control	ppFEV ₁
Strict	0	0	Partly or well controlled	≥ 80%
Alternate	≤1	≤5 mg		

Number of domains	Strict	Alternate
2 domains	18.1%	47.3%
3 domains	5.7%	31.6%
3 domains	7.6%	23.8%
4 domains	3.2%	18.7%

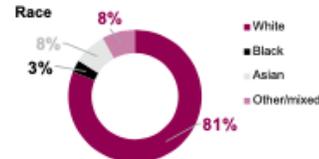
See Supplementary Table 1 for outcome definitions and timing of assessments.

What did we find?

Up to 2,031 eligible adults were included

Median (Q1, Q3) age: 54 (44, 63) years

60% female 40% male



Asthma metrics

- Asthma onset: 29 (12, 44) yrs
- Asthma duration: 21 (9, 35) yrs

Biomarkers

- BEC: 600 cells/μL
- FeNO: 35 ppb
- IgE: 190 IU/mL

Comorbidities

- CRS: 53.4%
- AR: 42.9%
- NP: 27.5%

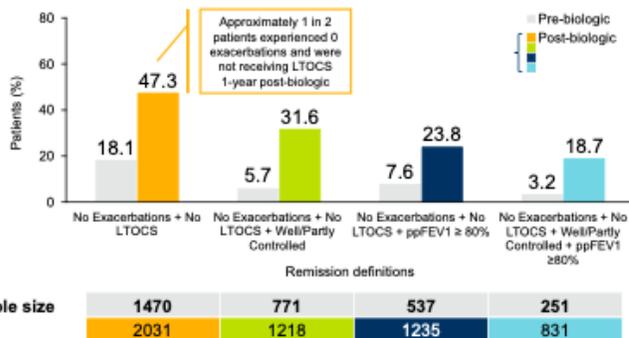
See Supplementary Tables 2A & 2B for full demographics and pre-biologic clinical characteristics.

Table 1. Patient pre-biologic clinical characteristics

Pre-biologic asthma outcome domain	n (%)
Exacerbations,* N	1499
n (%)	673 (44.9)
LTOCS user, N	1769
n (%)	580 (32.8)
Uncontrolled, N	1082
n (%)	794 (73.4)
ppFEV ₁ < 80%, N	1207
n (%)	698 (57.8)

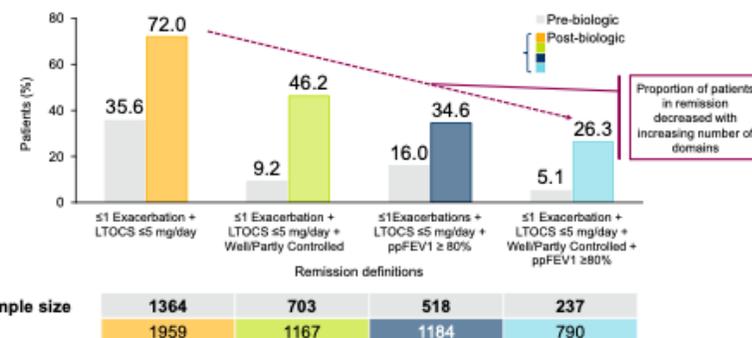
*≥ 1 hospitalized or ≥3 exacerbations in total

Figure 2. Proportion of patients with severe asthma in multi-domain remission pre- and ~1-year post-biologic initiation (Strict Criteria)



Sample size	1470	771	537	251
	2031	1218	1235	831

Figure 3. Proportion of patients with severe asthma in multi-domain remission pre- and ~1 year post-biologic initiation (Alternate Criteria)



Sample size	1364	703	518	237
	1959	1167	1184	790

How might this impact current clinical practice?

- Almost 1 in 5 adults with severe asthma met criteria for clinical remission in all 4 domains 1 year following biologic initiation
- Our results may be useful in informing physicians of the likelihood of remission 1-year post biologic, specific to domains of interest to patients
- Identification of a continuum of remission according to type and number of domains highlights the need for a universal approach to assess remission

Abbreviations

AR: allergic rhinitis; BEC: blood eosinophil count; CRS: chronic rhinosinusitis; FeNO: fractional exhaled nitric oxide; ISAR: International Severe Asthma Registry; LTOCS: long-term oral corticosteroid; NP: nasal polyps; OPRI: Observational & Pragmatic Research Institute; ppFEV₁: percent predicted forced expiratory flow in one second

Acknowledgments

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Disclosures

GS, VC, CG, LB, and AB are employees of OPRI. TNT, TTL, MF, NM and ANM-G are employees of AstraZeneca; DP: has consultancy agreements with Amgen, AZ, Boehringer Ingelheim, Chiesi, GSK, Mylan, Mundipharma, Novartis, Pfizer, Teva Pharmaceuticals, and Theravance. All other disclosures available on QrC



- E-poster
- Supplementary material
- Audio/video narration

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Responders/Remission

- Similar biomarkers in patients initiating biologics or not
 - But less LTOCS and exacerbations in non initiators
- 5.3% of biologic initiators would have met basic criteria for clinical trial
- More chance to have super responders if initiated on biologics
- Remission:
 - 1 out of 5 patients initiated on biologics
 - Less likely of higher exacerbations and longer asthma duration

Severe asthma

- Importance of SA diagnosis and co-existing diseases – adherence/education/interdisciplinary approach/Phenotype
- Significant overlap in biologic eligibility
 - T2 high asthma phenotype
 - reassess periodically and switch as needed
- Biologics:
 - Reduction in exacerbation ~ 50-70%
 - Weaning OCS ~ 50%
 - Stabilize or improve lung function (~150 ml)
 - Decrease symptoms/disease burden
 - Remission in 10-40%
- OCS life long: target < 2g (ideally < 0.5g) as risks++
- Lung function: influence on exacerbations and mortality

ISAR- Socioeconomy disparity in severe asthma

Objective 5

ISAR Global Reach – 28 Countries across 5 Continents



Total number of patients worldwide: **17,582**

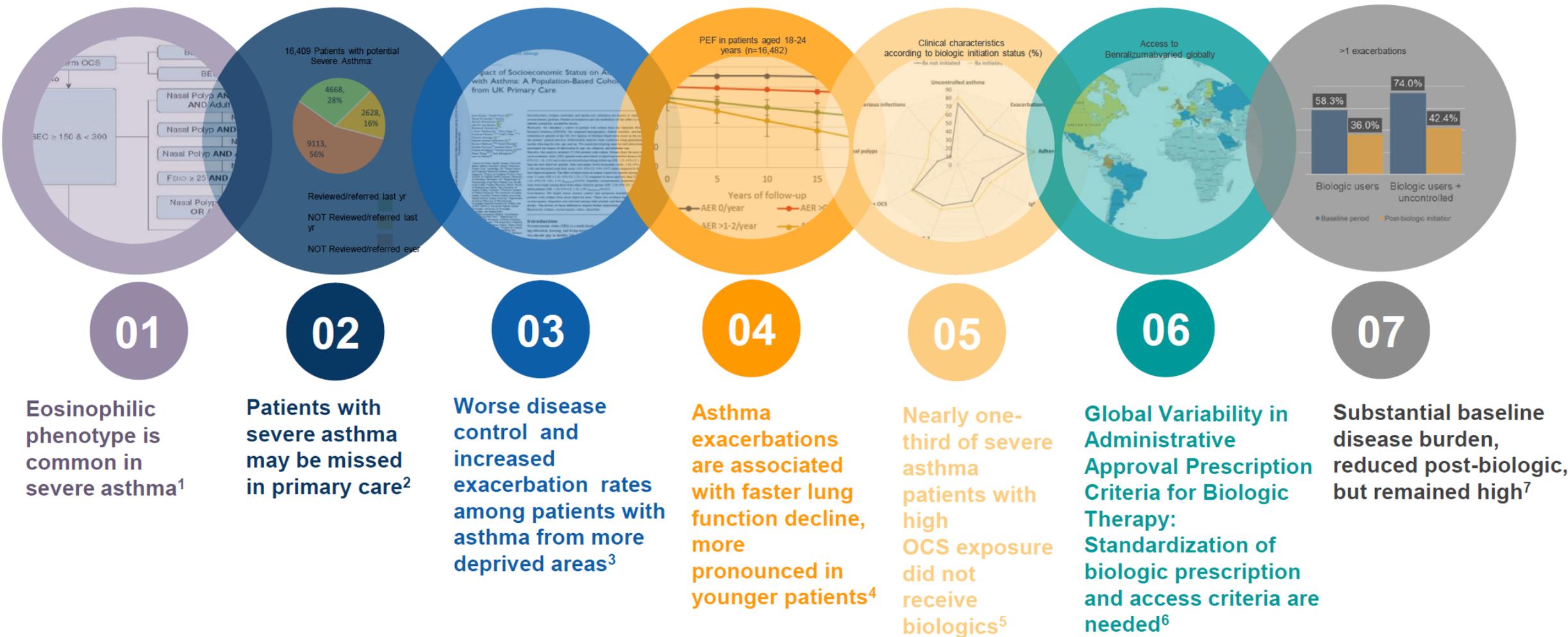
Total number of Canadian patients: **442**

Date of last extraction: 25 October 2023

468 Patients
1384 Visits
20 October 2023 Latest visit date
361 Biologic patients
107 Non-biologic patients
1.59K Total patient years
3.39 Average patient years



1. Who, what and when of severe and high risk asthma



1. Eosinophilic and non-eosinophilic asthma: A consensus framework, Heaney L, et al. Chest 2021;160(3):814-30. 2. Hidden severe asthma (HSA) patients in UK primary care, Ryan D, Price D et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract 2021;9(4):1612-1623.e9 3. RADIANT: Differences in asthma disease severity by socioeconomic status and ethnicity, Busby, J. et al. J Asthma Allergy. 2021 Nov 10;14:1375-1388. 4. Lung Function Trajectory (LFT), Soremekun S et al. Thorax 2022;0:1-10. doi:10.1136/thoraxjnl-2021-217032. 5. GLITTER I: Chen W et al. J Asthma Allergy, 2022;15:1491-1510. 6. BACS, Chen W et al. J Asthma Allergy, 2022;15:1491-1510 7. EVEREST study, Burden of severe asthma by biologic use and eligibility: an analysis of the International Severe Asthma Registry, T. Le, 2022 60: 2143 OCS: Oral Corticosteroids

Impact of Socioeconomic Status on Adult Patients with Asthma: A Population-Based Cohort Study from UK Primary Care

Journal of Asthma and Allergy 2021:14 1375–1388

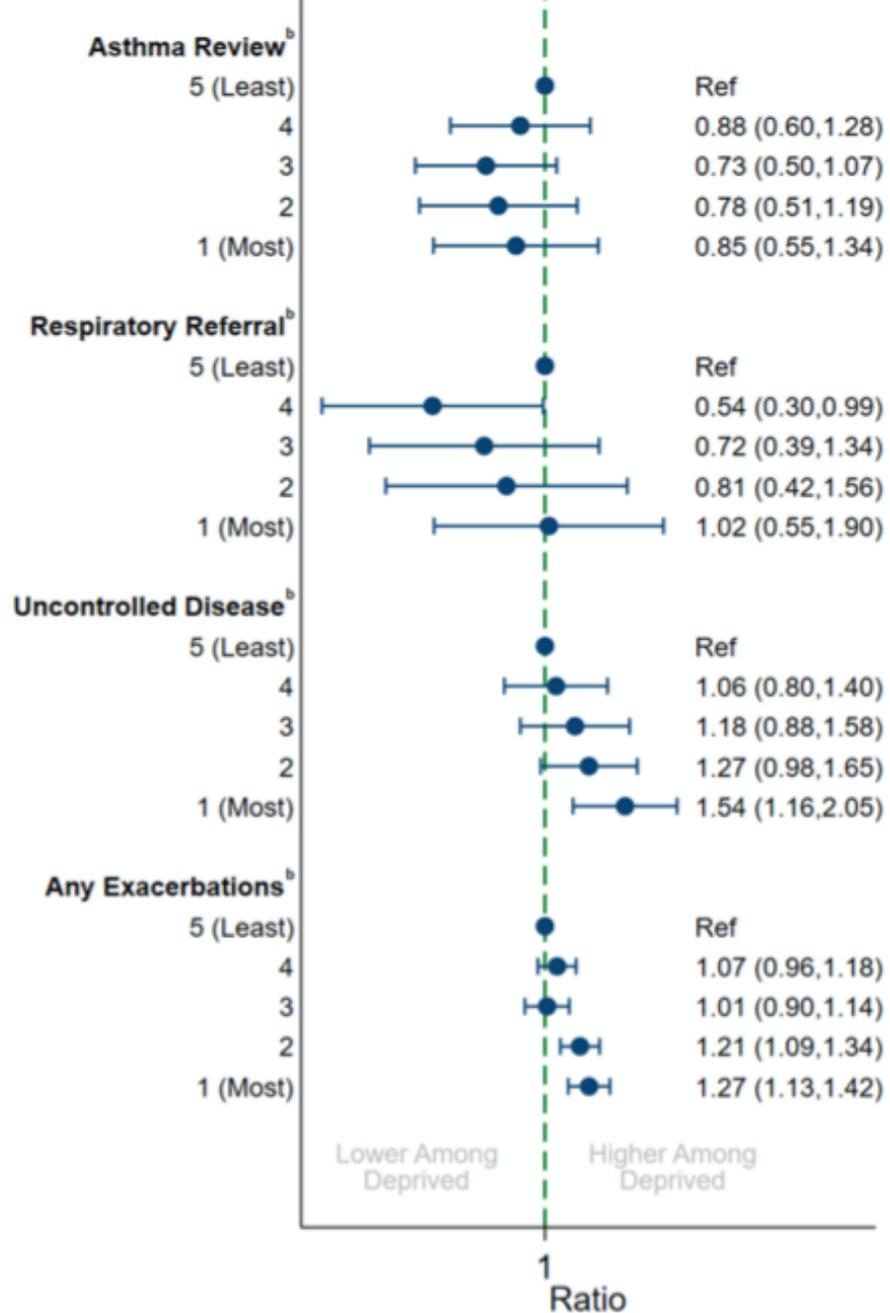
Cohort of 127 040 patients with asthma

Socioeconomic status :

- UK 2011 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)
- IMD score calculates the relative deprivation of small areas by taking a weighted average across seven domains (income, employment, health, education, housing, crime, and living environment).

Table 1 Comparison of Demographic and Clinical Information by Indices of Multiple Deprivation Quintile

	5 (Least Deprived)	4	3	2	1 (Most Deprived)	P-value			
Number Patients	28,215	26,900	24,332	31,059	16,534				
Age (years)	51.8 (16.7)	51.1 (17.0)	52.1 (17.1)	50.8 (17.0)	50.0 (16.9)	<0.001	57 (12.4%)	<0.001	P-value
<35	4911 (17.4%)	5234 (19.5%)	4453 (18.3%)	6330 (20.4%)	3708 (22.4%)		76 (8.3%)	<0.001	
35-54	11,553 (40.9%)	10,795 (40.1%)	9369 (38.5%)	12,350 (39.8%)	6487 (39.2%)		59 (1.6%)	0.009	
55-74	8981 (31.8%)	8286 (30.8%)	7994 (32.9%)	9556 (30.8%)	4911 (29.7%)		31 (1.4%)	0.713	
75+	2770 (9.8%)	2585 (9.6%)	2516 (10.3%)	2823 (9.1%)	1428 (8.6%)		36 (0.6%)	0.092	
Sex						<0.001	21 (12.2%)	<0.001	<0.001
Female	16,362 (58.0%)	15,780 (58.7%)	14,388 (59.1%)	18,617 (59.9%)	9961 (60.2%)		96 (8.4%)	<0.001	
Male	11,853 (42.0%)	11,120 (41.3%)	9944 (40.9%)	12,442 (40.1%)	6573 (39.8%)		18 (10.4%)	<0.001	
Ethnicity						<0.001	35 (1.2%)	<0.001	
White	18,268 (97.5%)	16,960 (94.7%)	15,777 (96.2%)	20,517 (95.3%)	9737 (88.3%)		55 (12.5%)	<0.001	
Asian	304 (1.6%)	710 (4.0%)	449 (2.7%)	769 (3.6%)	933 (8.5%)		21 (2.5%)	0.005	
Black	45 (0.2%)	104 (0.6%)	61 (0.4%)	143 (0.7%)	185 (1.7%)		8 (0.2%)	0.265	
Mixed	48 (0.3%)	78 (0.4%)	59 (0.4%)	57 (0.3%)	55 (0.5%)		6 (0.5%)	0.027	
Other	79 (0.4%)	66 (0.4%)	50 (0.3%)	47 (0.2%)	115 (1.0%)		34 (0.8%)	0.034	
BMI (kg/m²)	27.8 (5.8)	27.9 (5.9)	28.2 (6.1)	28.6 (6.1)	28.9 (6.4)	<0.001	25 (2.0%)	<0.001	0.001
Alcohol Consumption (Weekly Units)	4.0 (0.0, 10.0)	3.0 (0.0,10.0)	2.0 (0.0,10.0)	2.0 (0.0,10.0)	2.0 (0.0,10.0)	<0.001	35 (1.2%)	0.154	
Smoking Status						<0.001	28 (3.8%)	<0.001	<0.001
Never-Smoker	16,376 (59.2%)	14,977 (57.3%)	12,492 (55.0%)	16,135 (53.1%)	7929 (50.8%)		17 (1.3%)	0.345	
Ex-Smoker	7672 (27.7%)	7483 (28.6%)	6549 (28.9%)	8744 (28.8%)	4206 (26.9%)		73 (16.2%)	<0.001	
Current Smoker	3633 (13.1%)	3690 (14.1%)	3657 (16.1%)	5511 (18.1%)	3473 (22.3%)		(400,1000)	<0.001	
Any Exacerbation							22 (5.6%)	0.160	<0.001
Respiratory Referral							77 (83.3%)	<0.001	
							(Continued)		<0.001
Respiratory Referral		1226 (4.3%)	619 (2.3%)	767 (3.2%)	1094 (3.5%)		665 (4.0%)	<0.001	



Patients from more deprived areas had:

- poorer asthma disease control,
- lower peak flow, and
- increased exacerbations.

There was evidence that the magnitude of socio-economic disparities were elevated among

- older patients and
- ethnic minority groups.

Figure 1 Multivariable association between indices of multiple deprivation quintile and clinical variables^a. ^aAdjusted for year, age (5-year groups) and sex, ^bOdds ratio.

Conclusions

- Education
- Optimization of control and prevention of future risks
- Comorbidities highly prevalent
- Environment friendly inhalers if appropriate
- OCS burden: comorbidities and mortality
- Lung function to maintain to prevent exacerbations and mortality
- Mild asthma
 - Consider ICS/Form as needed
- Moderate to Severe:
 - Consider SITT
- Severe asthma:
 - Referral for phenotyping and consideration of biologics
- Remission:
 - Target for more severe asthma patients with biologics
- Deprived area: lower asthma control, lower lung function and higher exacerbations rate

Global Variability in Administrative Approval Prescription Criteria for Biologic Therapy in Severe Asthma

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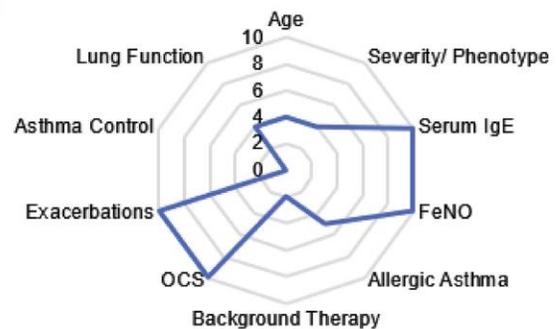
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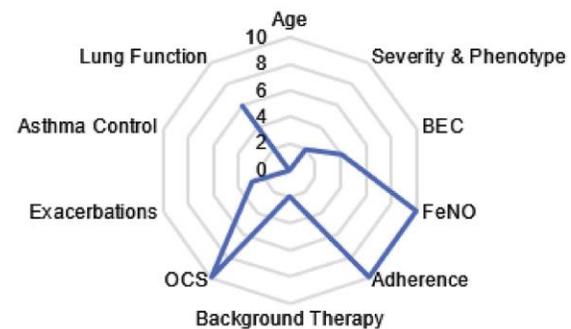




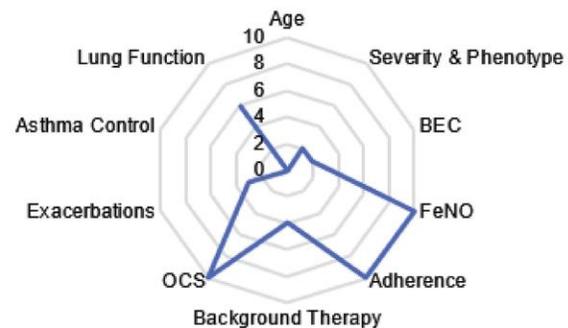
Omalizumab: Canada - BACS 40



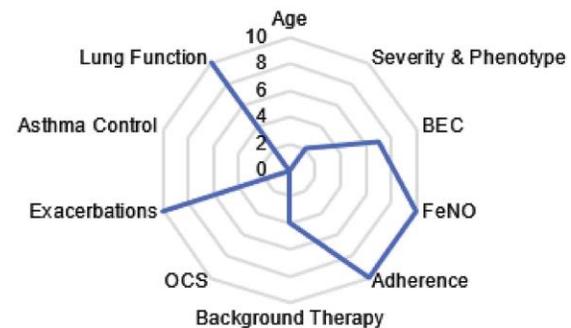
Mepolizumab: Canada - BACS 47



Reslizumab: Canada - BACS 47



Benralizumab: Canada - BACS 53



Biologic prescription criteria differed substantially across 28 countries from five continents. Blood eosinophil count thresholds (usually ≥ 300 cells/mL) and exacerbations were key requirements for anti-IgE/antiIL-5/5R prescriptions in around 80% of licensed countries. Most countries (40% for dupilumab to 54% for mepolizumab) require two or more moderate or severe exacerbations, whereas numbers ranged from none to four. Moreover, 0% (for reslizumab) to 21% (for omalizumab) of countries required long-term oral corticosteroid use. The BACS highlighted marked between-country differences in ease of access. For omalizumab, mepolizumab, benralizumab, and dupilumab, only two, one, four, and seven countries, respectively, scored equal

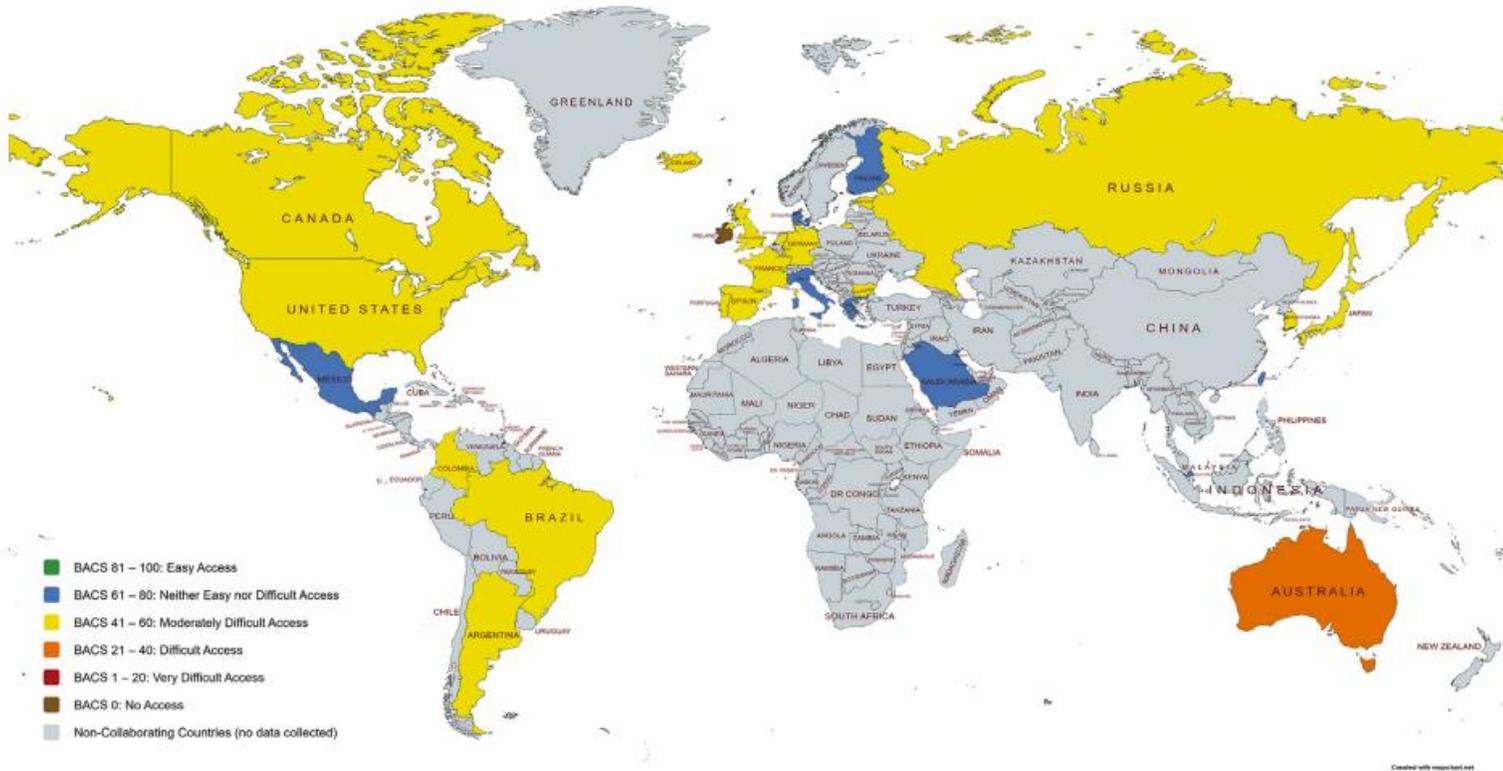


FIGURE 1. Omalizumab Biologic Accessibility Score (BACS) for International Severe Asthma Registry (ISAR) countries.

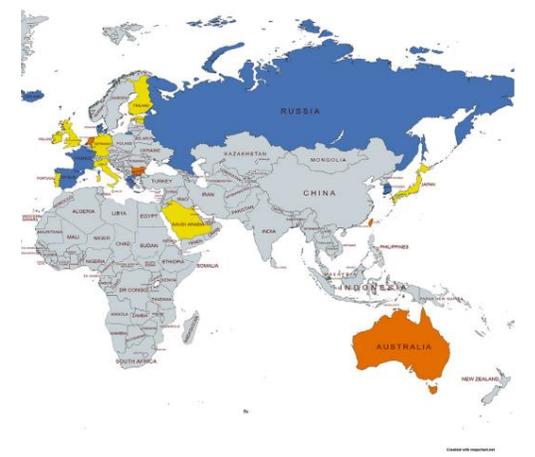


FIGURE 2. Dupilumab Biologic Accessibility Score (BACS) for International Severe Asthma Registry (ISAR) countries.

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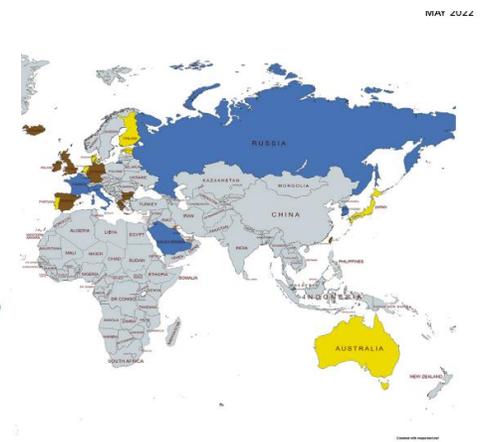


FIGURE 5. Dupilumab Biologic Accessibility Score (BACS) for International Severe Asthma Registry (ISAR) countries.