

Table 1 suppl. Presents wording of the symptom questions and results of Cox regressions of each symptom versus admission to hospital or deaths related to COPD.

Respiratory symptom	yes (n)	no (n)	Wald's $\chi^2$	p	Hazard ratio	95% Confidence limits
<b>Non-productive cough</b>						
Cough usually in the morning during winter	121	498	25.9	0.0001	4.21	2.42-7.32
Cough usually day or night during winter	71	548	9.3	0.0023	2.72	1.43-5.17
Cough most days at least 3 months a year or more during winter	116	505	22.5	0.0001	3.82	2.20-6.63
<b>Productive cough</b>						
Cough and expectorate usually in the morning	123	496	19.1	0.0001	3.46	1.98-6.03
Cough and expectorate usually day or night in winter	50	570	14.7	0.0001	3.67	1.89-7.13
Cough and expectorate most days 3 months a year or more	101	519	21.5	0.0001	3.81	2.17-6.70
<b>Wheezing</b>						
Wheeze or squeaks any time	218	402	19.9	0.0001	3.55	2.04-6.19
Wheeze or squeaks any time connected with a common cold	157	461	17.1	0.0001	3.13	1.82-5.37
Wheeze or squeaks any time unconnected with a common cold	99	520	37.8	0.0001	5.50	3.19-9.47
Wheeze or squeaks most days a year	32	586	26.0	0.0001	6.04	3.03-12.07
<b>Dyspnoea</b>						
Dyspnoea when walking fast on the level or waking up an incline	162	451	28.5	0.0001	4.39	2.55-7.55
Dyspnoea when walking on the level at ordinary pace	29	589	12.1	0.0005	4.54	1.93-10.66

n: number;  $\chi^2$ : chi-square; p: probability; p<0.05: significant.