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Title: Metabolomic analysis of exhaled breath condensate in patients with asthma and COPD

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Body: We studied the discriminating capacity of NMR spectroscopy-based metabolomics of exhaled breath condensate (EBC) in asthma and COPD patients, who were either steroid-naïve or treated with inhaled corticosteroids (ICS) [fluticasone (500-1000 µg/day) for at least 2 months], and healthy subjects. Twenty-seven steroid-naïve COPD patients (21/6, males/females, age 67±2 years, mean±SEM, FEV₁ 68±2.9% predicted value), 20 COPD patients on ICS (16/4, males/females, age 70±2 years, FEV₁ 73±4.2% predicted value), 21 steroid-naïve asthmatics (16/5, males/females, age 32±3.9 years, FEV₁ 99±4.9% predicted value), 19 asthmatics on ICS (14/5, males/females, age 31±4.0 years, FEV₁ 85±5.0% predicted value), and 15 healthy subjects (8/7, males/females, age 28±1 years, FEV₁ 116±2.6% predicted value) were included in a cross-sectional study. Asthma and healthy subjects were nonsmokers, COPD patients were exsmokers. EBC was collected after 20 min of tidal breathing (Ecoscreen, Jaeger, Hoechberg, Germany). ¹H-NMR spectra (Bruker Avance spectrometer) were data reduced to buckets (AMIX 3.6 package, Bruker Biospin, Rheinstetten, Germany) and normalized to total spectral area. Good reproducibility and no salivary contamination was previously reported (Montuschi P et al, Thorax, 2012). PLS-DA showed all study groups were separated (R²=0.79, Q²=0.80), suggesting an effect of ICS on EBC metabolites which has to be investigated in prospective controlled studies.