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**Title:** New GOLD recommendations in a seven years follow up - changes in symptoms and risk categories

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**Body:** Aim: The aim of this study was to analyse the change in GOLD categories according to the new GOLD recommendations over seven years of follow up. Method: A total of 1548 patients aged 34-75 years with a diagnosis of COPD were randomly selected in 2005 from primary care and secondary care in Sweden. The response rate was 75%. Information was collected using questionnaires in 2005 including history of exacerbations and CCQ. Spirometry data were obtained from record reviews for the period 2000-2003. A follow-up of the same patients in 2012 included the same questions as 2005. Symptoms and future Risk were graded into the GOLD categories A, B, C and D. CCQ was used to assess Symptoms in both surveys as CAT was not available in 2005. A mean of CCQ < 1.0 was judged as less Symptoms. Results: A total of 573 from 802 available patients participated in both surveys. Mean age in 2012 was 69.8, 59% women. Of all, 26% were daily smokers in 2005 compared with 16% in 2012 (p<0.001). There was an uneven distribution in the different GOLD categories. In 2005 23% were in A, 39% in B, 4% in C and 34% in D. In 2012 19% were in A, 38% in B, 4% in C and 40% in D. From 2005 to 2012 39% had changed category (see table). Of those with Low Risk in 2005, 25% had changed to High Risk in 2012. Daily smokers in 2005 had an increased odds ratio for changing to High Risk, OR 2.25 (95%CI 1.29-3.94) adjusted for sex and age. Conclusion: Many COPD patients change GOLD categories and daily smoking was associated with increased future Risk in this follow up.

|                | A 2012 (n=98) | B 2012 (n=199) | C 2012 (n=20) | D 2012 (n=210) |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| A 2005 (n=119) | 53%           | 29%            | 5%            | 13%            |

|                |     |     |     |     |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| B 2005 (n=207) | 12% | 60% | 1%  | 28% |
| C 2005 (n=20)  | 25% | 15% | 25% | 35% |
| D 2005 (n=181) | 3%  | 20% | 4%  | 72% |