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**Title:** Increased levels of exhaled carbon monoxide and their correlation with airflow obstruction in asthma and COPD

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**Body:** Purpose: Quantify lung oxidative stress in patients with asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease by measuring levels of exhaled carbon monoxide and carboxyhaemoglobin. Method: Levels of exhaled carbon monoxide and carboxyhaemoglobin were evaluated in 30 patients with COPD, 30 asthmatic patients and 30 healthy volunteers respectively. Exhaled CO and %COHb was measured on a portable piCO+ smokerlyzer, using the method described by Jarvis et al. Exhaled CO level measured by the analyzer is reported to correlate closely with blood COHb concentration. Results: Mean exhaled CO level was significantly higher among COPD (8.17  $\pm$  0.66 ppm), asthmatic patients (7.73  $\pm$  0.67 ppm) as compared to controls (5.37  $\pm$  0.56 ppm, p<0.01; p<0.05 respectively). No significant difference in the levels of CO concentration between asthma and COPD (p>0.05). %COHb levels were remarkably higher in COPD and asthma patients as compared to control group. The values being 1.94  $\pm$  0.11, 1.91  $\pm$  0.11 and 1.48  $\pm$  0.09 respectively (COPD vs control, p<0.01; asthma vs control, p<0.05). Conclusion: Levels of CO and %COHb in exhaled air have role in lung oxidative stress. These biomarker measurement in exhaled air is a simple, non-invasive and sensitive approach to monitor airway inflammation and assess the response to treatment.