

# European Respiratory Society Annual Congress 2012

**Abstract Number:** 3802

**Publication Number:** P2283

**Abstract Group:** 5.2. Monitoring Airway Disease

**Keyword 1:** COPD - management **Keyword 2:** Monitoring **Keyword 3:** Quality of life

**Title:** New GOLD 2011 guidelines: Is there an improvement?

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**Body:** Background: The 2011 revision of GOLD report establishes a new assessment of COPD based on the patient's level of symptoms, spirometric classification and exacerbation history. Aim: To compare and establish the differences between the classification of COPD patients using the guidelines of GOLD report 2010 and 2011. Methods: A prospective study with a group of consecutive COPD patients from our outpatient clinic was performed. They were assessed according to GOLD 2011 by answering COPD Assessment Test (CAT) and Modified British Medical Research Council (mMRC) Questionnaire; by a spirometric evaluation in the same day and by reviewing the history of exacerbations of the previous year. This data was compared with the GOLD 2010 COPD assessment of the same patients. Results: 45 patients were included (mean age 62,3 (±9); 73% male). The results are as below:

2010 GOLD stage	CAT≥10 (%)	mMRC≥2 (%)	2011 GOLD grade	2011 Risk group	Exacerbations≥2	2011 COPD Assessment (n)
1 n=8	38	25	1 n=8	A-5; B-3	0	A - 6
2 n=12	92	75	2 n=12	A-1; B-11	0	B - 14
3 n=12	83	75	3 n=12	C-2; D-10	1	C - 2
4 n=13	100	100	3 n=8; 4 n=5	D-13	9	D - 23

In GOLD 2010 classification 92% stage 4 patients had chronic respiratory failure; of those 62% are GOLD grade 3 in the 2011 spirometric assessment.

**Conclusions:** GOLD 2010 stage 4 patients were the group with greater exacerbation history. With exception for GOLD 2010 stage 1 patients, which were mainly assessed as group A in the 2011 GOLD classification, the remaining patients were mostly placed in the groups with greater symptomatic impact (B and D), which

was better assessed by CAT. This shows the burden of disease in patient's life and the need of a better treatment management, which is one of the goals of the 2011 COPD assessment.