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Title: The DACCORD study: Real-life COPD outpatient treatment with long-acting bronchodilators in Germany

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Body: Background Treatment suggestions and algorithms in guidelines are primarily justified by evidence from randomized controlled trials (RCTs), which only reflect selected patients. In daily practice, the majority of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients are older with multiple comorbidities. Moreover, patients who experience exacerbations are often excluded from RCTs. Daily clinical practice data is essential to show clinical efficacy and tolerability of newly developed long-acting bronchodilators in a more representative patient population. Objectives The DACCORD registry aims to close this apparent gap by evaluating different treatment approaches in COPD with respect to their efficacy and tolerability and their impact on patient-related outcomes. Methods DACCORD is a prospective observational German registry since November 2012, evaluating data of 6,000 patients with COPD from 500 sites. To guarantee the best selection under the conditions of a non-interventional study, patients have to fulfill the criteria for recruitment to the German COPD DMP (Disease Management Program), implemented by the statutory health insurances. The primary objective is to evaluate diagnosis and therapy of outpatient-treated COPD patients under special consideration of individual treatment success, determined by therapy adherence, symptoms and patient-reported outcomes. Among the secondary objectives are the characteristics of exacerbations and COPD progression, measured by lung function and CAT (COPD Assessment Test) questionnaire. Conclusion The DACCORD registry will be able to provide insights into the real world efficacy and safety of long-acting bronchodilators in the management of COPD.