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Title: Comparison of gender-related risk factors for COPD – Results from the Canadian obstructive lung disease (CanCOLD) study

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Body: Background: COPD is an important disease in women, with an increasing prevalence in developed and developing countries. Objectives: To compare risk factors for COPD by gender in the general population. Methods: The random sample consisted of 5176 people aged 40 years and older from 9 sites in Canada who completed interviewer administered questionnaires on respiratory symptoms and diseases, co-morbidities and health related quality of life and who performed spirometry before and after administration of 200ug of inhaled salbutamol/albuterol. The analysis was performed for 4893 [95%] subjects who had ATS acceptable and repeatable spirometric data. Logistic regression analysis was used to compute adjusted odds ratio [OR, 95%CI] for independent risk factors for men and women. Results: Common independent risk factors for men and women included increasing age, smoking, prior diagnosis of asthma, presence of chronic cough and phlegm, a history of childhood hospitalization for severe respiratory illness and exposure to passive smoking. The overall risk for COPD for women referenced to men in the study population, with adjustment for all risk factors and for pack years of cigarettes smoked, is shown below, by age groups.

Conclusions: Men and women have common risk factors for mild to moderate COPD. Women compared

with men, did not appear to be at increased risk in the general population.