



Longitudinal changes in airway hyperresponsiveness and COPD mortality

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Airway hyperresponsiveness displayed on multiple occasions independently leads to a higher risk of COPD death <http://bit.ly/363Wfkg>

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To the Editor:

Airway hyperresponsiveness (AHR) is associated with an increased mortality risk among males [1] and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients [2]. However, this association is largely based on cross-sectional studies using a single measurement of AHR to predict mortality; inherently ignoring the longitudinal variability of AHR. AHR is variable regardless of disease or medication status, and is linked with changes in smoking habits, seasonal variations and exposure to pollutants [3–5]. Considering this, it remains unclear how changes in AHR affect mortality, specifically from causes such as COPD, cardiovascular disease (CVD) and cancer.