



Regarding the role of F_{ENO} in predicting failure after ICS reduction in mild-to-moderate asthma patients

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We must be cautious in deciding whether or not to reduce ICS dose based only on the measurement of F_{ENO} <https://bit.ly/2VAHLVU>

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To the Editor:

Although exhaled nitric oxide fraction (F_{ENO}) is one of most widely used type-2 biomarkers, there remains some controversy about its role in diagnosing asthma, assessing adherence, predicting steroid responsiveness and preventing exacerbations by adjusting medication dosage. Thus, we read with great interest the well-conducted individual patient data meta-analysis by WANG *et al.* [1]. The study showed that the use of F_{ENO} can potentially assist clinicians in deciding whether to reduce inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) dose in well-controlled asthmatics. We appreciate the authors' efforts in illuminating this important topic, but there is an essential methodological consideration that must be taken into account, which has already been outlined by DINH-XUAN and BRUSSELLE [2] in their editorial and by the authors themselves: the study did not evaluate the impact of other potential risk factors for exacerbations.