



# Detection and characterisation of extracellular vesicles in exhaled breath condensate and sputum of COPD and severe asthma patients

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**Small and medium extracellular vesicles, identified and characterised in exhaled breath condensate and induced sputum supernatants, might provide pathophysiological insights and novel biomarkers in severe asthma and COPD patients** <https://bit.ly/3fiTnXY>

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*To the Editor:*

Extracellular vesicles, nano-sized (20–1000 nm) membranous structures released from cells, play critical roles in both physiological and pathological processes [1]. Extracellular vesicles can be classified based on their size into small (sEVs; <200 nm, also known as exosomes) and medium (mEVs; >200 nm, also known as microvesicles) [1]. Extracellular vesicles might be a target for personalised medicine, given their content and biological origin [2]. Indeed, extracellular vesicles detected in various biological fluids, including sputum supernatants, mucus, epithelial lining fluid, the pulmonary circulation and bronchoalveolar lavage fluid represent a unique tool for both investigating the pathophysiology of respiratory disease and for biomarker discovery [2, 3].

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