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Validation of the CCQ Symptom Control Questionnaire

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Background Symptoms are the most prominent and bothersome characteristic of patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). However, no validated questionnaires are available to measure symptom control in COPD. The aim of this study was to develop and validate the international COPD Control Questionnaire (CCQ).

Methods Development: Interviews and focus group discussions with patients were conducted and clinicians were consulted to generate all possible items to evaluate symptom control. From these items a 7-item reduction questionnaire was generated and sent to 7 international experts in the field of COPD. They were asked to rank the symptoms and to score each one for importance in determining symptom control. Sixty-seven experts responded and from the results the 10 most important items were included in the CCQ.

Validation Cross sectional data were collected in two studies.

Results Data of 119 subjects (58 patients with airway obstruction (COPD), 19 patients without airway obstruction (chronic bronchitis) and 42 healthy (ex)smokers were collected. Cronbach's alpha was high (>0.78). The CCQ scores in patients with COPD or CB were significantly higher than in healthy (ex) smokers. Furthermore significant moderate to high correlations were found between the CCQ and the SF-36 and the SGRQ, supporting the validity of the CCQ. Lower correlations were found between the CCQ and FEV₁%pred.

Conclusion The CCQ is the first questionnaire specifically developed to measure symptom control in patients with COPD and the cross sectional validity of the CCQ is supported by this data.

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Conflict of interest None declared