

**SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE S3** Performance of the staging methods based on z score and  $\text{FEV}_1 \cdot \text{Ht}^{-3}$  in predicting outcomes when using 5-stage cutoff values

Method of staging (cutoff values)	Crude OR for $\geq 1$ SAE at 1 year (95% CI)	Adjusted OR <sup>#</sup> for $\geq 1$ SAE at 1 year (95% CI)	Crude OR for $\geq 2$ SAE at 1 year (95% CI)	Adjusted OR <sup>#</sup> for $\geq 2$ SAE at 1 year (95% CI)
<b>Z score (5-stage)<sup>†</sup></b>				
1 ( $\geq -2$ )	1	1	1	1
2 ( $\geq -2.5$ and $< -2$ )	0.70 (0.13-3.72)	0.66 (0.11-3.84)	NA	NA
3 ( $\geq -3$ and $< -2.5$ )	9.57 (3.38-27.10)**	10.00 (3.21-31.17)**	17.50 (2.18-140.59)*	19.70 (1.88-206.86)*
4 ( $\geq -4$ and $< -3$ )	4.66 (1.60-13.54)*	4.78 (1.45-15.78)*	13.21 (1.63-106.91)*	12.24 (1.09-137.92)*
5 ( $< -4$ )	4.64 (1.12-19.28)*	10.66 (1.78-64.06)*	10.71 (0.92-124.77)	38.97 (1.42-1073.5)*
<b>FEV<sub>1</sub>·Ht<sup>-3</sup> (quintile)<sup>‡</sup></b>				
1 ( $\geq 0.40$ )	1	1	1	1
2 ( $\geq 0.32$ and $< 0.40$ )	1.53 (0.41-5.71)	1.42 (0.35-5.81)	0.98 (0.06-16.09)	0.91 (0.04-19.00)
3 ( $\geq 0.26$ and $< 0.32$ )	1.63 (0.45-5.88)	1.43 (0.36-5.75)	2.77 (0.28-27.33)	2.18 (0.16-29.54)
4 ( $\geq 0.21$ and $< 0.26$ )	7.60 (2.39-24.19)**	5.65 (1.58-20.27)*	10.26 (1.24-85.00)*	5.65 (0.50-64.37)
5 ( $< 0.21$ )	4.00 (1.21-13.28)*	3.11 (0.81-11.98)	11.80 (1.44-96.56)*	7.85 (0.66-94.11)
Method of staging (cutoff values)				
	Crude OR for $\geq 1$ SAE every year at 2 years (95% CI)	Adjusted OR <sup>#</sup> for $\geq 1$ SAE every year at 2 years (95% CI)	Crude HR for all-cause mortality (95% CI)	Adjusted HR <sup>¶</sup> for all-cause mortality (95% CI)
<b>Z score (5-stage)<sup>†</sup></b>				
1 ( $\geq -2$ )	1	1	1	1
2 ( $\geq -2.5$ and $< -2$ )	NA	NA	1.95 (0.84-4.50)	2.20 (0.94-5.14)
3 ( $\geq -3$ and $< -2.5$ )	23.16 (2.91-184.11)**	33.43 (3.22-347.19)**	2.49 (1.15-5.40)*	2.49 (1.13-5.51)*
4 ( $\geq -4$ and $< -3$ )	12.25 (1.51-99.23)*	20.00 (1.87-214.03)*	3.12 (1.51-6.48)**	3.86 (1.77-8.41)**
5 ( $< -4$ )	5.19 (0.31-87.29)	23.25 (0.86-625.93)	1.34 (0.29-6.12)	5.98 (1.01-35.30)*
<b>FEV<sub>1</sub>·Ht<sup>-3</sup> (quintile)<sup>‡</sup></b>				
1 ( $\geq 0.40$ )	1	1	1	1
2 ( $\geq 0.32$ and $< 0.40$ )	2.89 (0.29-28.67)	3.27 (0.28-37.71)	1.97 (0.62-6.28)	1.68 (0.52-5.45)
3 ( $\geq 0.26$ and $< 0.32$ )	2.61 (0.26-25.81)	2.72 (0.23-31.60)	3.68 (1.24-10.95)*	2.64 (0.87-8.02)
4 ( $\geq 0.21$ and $< 0.26$ )	11.63 (1.42-95.56)*	11.73 (1.20-114.36)*	5.15 (1.76-15.09)**	3.38 (1.13-10.13)*
5 ( $< 0.21$ )	8.63 (1.02-72.86)*	10.76 (1.03-112.96)*	4.33 (1.45-12.87)*	2.94 (0.96-9.02)

FEV<sub>1</sub>, forced expiratory volume in 1 second; FEV<sub>1</sub>·Ht<sup>-3</sup>, FEV<sub>1</sub> over height cubed; OR, odds ratio; HR, hazard ratio; SAE, severe acute exacerbation; 95% CI, 95% confidence interval; NA, statistical estimates could not be obtained due to too few the event counts. <sup>†</sup> : The five-stage cutoff values were proposed by Quanjer *et al* [1]. <sup>‡</sup> : The use of quintiles of FEV<sub>1</sub>·Ht<sup>-3</sup> was proposed by Pedone *et al* [2]. <sup>#</sup> : Adjusted for age, body mass index, Charlson comorbidity index, smoking status, and history of severe acute exacerbation in the preceding year. <sup>¶</sup> : Adjusted for age, body mass index, Charlson comorbidity

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index, smoking status, and history of severe acute exacerbation in the preceding year. \* :  $P < 0.05$ ; \*\* :  $P < 0.005$ .

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## REFERENCES FOR SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE S3:

- 1 Quanjer PH, Pretto JJ, Brazzale DJ, *et al.* Grading the severity of airways obstruction: new wine in new bottles. *Eur Respir J* 2014; 43: 505–512.
- 2 Pedone C, Scarlata S, Scichilone N, *et al.* Alternative ways of expressing FEV<sub>1</sub> and mortality in elderly people with and without COPD. *Eur Respir J* 2013; 41: 800–805.