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Treatment with inhaled α 1-antitrypsin: a square peg in a round hole?

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Inhaled α 1-antitrypsin may reduce severity of exacerbations in COPD <http://bit.ly/2OtJx8b>

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α 1-Antitrypsin deficiency (AATD) is a genetic disorder that predisposes to the development of early pulmonary emphysema, especially in smokers. Episodes of exacerbations are frequent in patients with emphysema due to AATD and are associated with a deficient antiprotease screen in the airways compared with that of non-deficient COPD patients [1]. As a consequence, exacerbations have great impact on the evolution of the lung disease in AATD, measured in terms of decline in gas transfer [2], in health status [2, 3], and in lung function over time [4, 5].