

Appendix 4: Post hoc analyses – odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals for fractional exhaled nitric oxide (FeNO) in relation to acute exacerbations of asthma after stepping down inhaled corticosteroids

	n/N (%)			Crude OR (95% CI), p value		
Subgroup (N)	Low FeNO	Intermediate FeNO	High FeNO	Intermediate versus low FeNO	High versus low FeNO	High versus intermediate FeNO
Participants in Wilson 2014 study (N=189)	12/101 (11.9)	6/66 (9.1)	6/22 (27.3)	0.74 (0.26 to 2.08), P=0.571	2.78 (0.91 to 8.48), P=0.072	3.75 (1.06 to 13.2), P=0.040
Participants excluding Wilson 2014 study (N=195)	10/99 (10.1)	5/78 (6.4)	4/18 (22.2)	0.61 (0.20 to 1.88), P=0.389	2.56 (0.69 to 9.48), P=0.159	4.19 (0.99 to 17.8), P=0.051
Regular ICS dose halved (N=276)	16/130 (12.3)	8/109 (7.3)	8/37 (21.6)	0.56 (0.23 to 1.37), P=0.208	1.97 (0.77 to 5.04), P=0.160	2.47 (1.02 to 6.01), P=0.046
Regular ICS withdrawn or reduced to 'as needed' use (N=108)	6/70 (8.6)	3/35 (8.6)	2/3 (66.7)	1.00 (0.23 to 4.26), P=1.000	21.3 (1.68 to 271), P=0.018	21.3 (1.76 to 259), P=0.016

n = number of participants with ≥ 1 exacerbation, N = total number of participants, OR = Odds Ratio, FeNO = fractional exhaled nitric oxide, ICS = inhaled corticosteroids, CI = confidence interval
Definition of FeNO categories: high ≥ 50 ppb (parts per billion), intermediate (>20 to <50 ppb), low (≤ 20 ppb). Crude OR adjusted for within-study clustering only.