Supplementary material

Supplementary table S1. Demographic and clinical characteristics for 2-18 year olds. Values are n (%).

values are n (%).		Treatment at	Index Prescription D	ate
	Total	ocs	OCS + Antibiotic	p-value
	(n= 6,632)	(n=4,538)	(n=2,094)	
Age, yrs	000 (40 70()	004 (40 00()	205 (42 22()	0.004
2-5	909 (13.7%)	624 (13.8%)	285 (13.6%)	< 0.001
6-12	3,502 (52.8%)	2,468 (54.4%)	1,034 (49.4%)	
13-18	2,221 (33.5%)	1,446 (31.9%)	775 (37.0%)	
Sex	0.500 (00.40()	4 700 (20 20()	040 (00 00/)	0.700
Female	2,593 (39.1%)	1,780 (39.2%)	813 (38.8%)	0.780
Male z-score Body Mass Inde	4,039 (60.9%)	2,758 (60.8%)	1,281 (61.2%)	
Underweight	233 (4.6%)	158 (4.6%)	75 (4.5%)	0.011
Normal	2,935 (57.7%)	1,985 (57.9%)	950 (57.2%)	0.011
Overweight	1,011 (19.9%)	664 (19.4%)	347 (20.9%)	
Obese	909 (17.9%)	621 (18.1%)	288 (17.3%)	
	1,544 (23.3%)	1,110 (24.5%)	434 (20.7%)	
Missing	1,344 (23.3%)	1,110 (24.5%)	434 (20.7 %)	
Smoking status Current Smoker	276 (4.6%)	141 (3.4%)	135 (7.2%)	< 0.001
Ex-Smoker	241 (4.0%)	175 (4.3%)	66 (3.5%)	< 0.001
Non-Smoker	5,456 (91.3%)	3,778 (92.3%)	1,678 (89.3%)	
		-		
Missing	659 (9.9%)	444 (9.8%)	215 (10.3%)	
Global initiative for Asth	, , ,	1 660 (26 69/)	004 (20 20/)	0.110
Step 2	2,461 (37.1%) 2,634 (39.7%)	1,660 (36.6%)	801 (38.3%)	0.110
Step 3	1,537 (23.2%)	1,794 (39.5%)	840 (40.1%) 453 (21.6%)	
Step 4 Eosinophil Count (x10 ⁹ /l		1,084 (23.9%)	455 (21.0%)	
>0 to 0.2	-) 201 (27.4%)	129 (26.6%)	72 (28.9%)	0.33
>0.2 to 0.4	191 (26.0%)	127 (26.2%)	64 (25.7%)	0.00
>0.2 to 0.4 >0.4 to 0.6	129 (17.6%)	90 (18.6%)	39 (15.7%)	
>0.4 to 0.8	88 (12.0%)	55 (11.3%)	33 (13.3%)	
>0.8 to 1	46 (6.3%)	36 (7.4%)	10 (4.0%)	
>1	79 (10.8%)	48 (9.9%)	31 (12.4%)	
Missing	5,898 (88.9%)	4,053 (89.3%)	1,845 (88.1%)	
Season of Index Prescri		4,000 (00.070)	1,040 (00.170)	
Autumn	1,958 (29.5%)	1,298 (28.6%)	660 (31.5%)	< 0.001
Winter	1,932 (29.1%)	1,257 (27.7%)	675 (32.2%)	
Spring	1,438 (21.7%)	1,017 (22.4%)	421 (20.1%)	
Summer	1,304 (19.7%)	966 (21.3%)	338 (16.1%)	
Year of Index Prescription		,	(,	
2004-2006	2,328 (35.1%)	1,668 (36.8%)	660 (31.5%)	< 0.001
2007-2009	2,178 (32.8%)	1,486 (32.8%)	692 (33.1%)	
2010-2012	1,556 (23.5%)	1,004 (22.1%)	552 (26.4%)	
2013-2014	570 (8.6%)	380 (8.4%)	190 (9.1%)	
Number of asthma/whee	ze consults in baselin	ne 6 months		
total				
0	2,437 (36.8%)	1,647 (36.3%)	790 (37.7%)	0.460
1-5	4,079 (61.5%)	2,813 (62.0%)	1,266 (60.5%)	
6-10	107 (1.6%)	73 (1.6%)	34 (1.6%)	
11-15	8 (0.1%)	5 (0.1%)	3 (0.1%)	
16-20	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)	
with Short-Acting Beta				
0	2,437 (36.8%)	1,647 (36.3%)	790 (37.7%)	0.110
1	3,229 (48.7%)	2,203 (48.6%)	1,026 (49.0%)	
2	966 (14.6%)	688 (15.2%)	278 (13.3%)	
with antibiotic prescrip		4.444.(04.00)	4 000 (00 00)	0.07:
0	6,024 (90.8%)	4,144 (91.3%)	1,880 (89.8%)	0.074
1	562 (8.5%)	368 (8.1%)	194 (9.3%)	
2	44 (0.7%)	24 (0.5%)	20 (1.0%)	
3	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	
4	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	

OCS: Oral Corticosteroids. Percentages are given as non-missing.

Supplementary table S2. Demographic and clinical characteristics for 19-65 year olds. Values are n (%).

Total (n=22,005)	values are ii (70).		Treatment at	Index Prescription D)ate
Care		Total			p-value
19-25					P 1011010
26-35	Age, yrs				
36-45					< 0.001
46-55 5.417 (24.6%) 2,830 (23.6%) 2,530 (25.3%) Sex Female 14,407 (65.5%) 7,958 (66.4%) 6,449 (64.4%) 0.00 Male 7,598 (34.5%) 4,035 (33.6%) 3,563 (35.6%) Body Mass Index Underweight 381 (1.8%) 216 (1.8%) 165 (1.7%) 0.00 Normal 5,810 (27.0%) 3,274 (27.9%) 2,536 (25.9%) 0.00 Overweight 6,910 (32.1%) 3,757 (32.1%) 3,153 (32.2%) 0.00 Obese 8,417 (39.1%) 4,474 (38.2%) 3,943 (40.2%) Missing 487 (2.2%) 272 (2.3%) 215 (2.1%) Smoking status Current Smoker 4,854 (22.4%) 2,335 (19.9%) 2,519 (25.6%) 2,650 (26.9%) 0.00 Missing 391 (1.8%) 235 (2.0%) 156 (1.6%) Global initiative for Asthma (GINA) category Step 2 6,471 (29.4%) 3,329 (27.8%) 2,775 (27.7%) 3,153 (32.2%) 0.96 Step 3 6,104 (27.7%) 3,329 (27.8%) 2,954 (29.5%) 0.96 Cosinophil Count (x10°/L) Solo 0.2 5,658 (48.2%) 3,066 (48.5%) 2,592 (47.9%) 0.05 Solo 1 164 (1.4%) 91 (1.4%) 73 (1.3%) 1-1 (1.4%) 73 (1.3%) 1-1 (1.4%) 73 (1.3%) 1-1 (1.4%) 73 (1.3%) 1-1 (1.4%) 73 (1.3%) 1-1 (1.4%) 725 (11.5%) 665 (12.3%) 0.06 Season of Index Prescription Date Autumn 5,823 (26.5%) 3,178 (26.5%) 2,645 (26.4%) 4,000 Spring 4,806 (21.8%) 2,661 (22.2%) 2,145 (21.4%) 1.97 (1.4%) 73 (1.3%) 1-1 (1.4%) 74 (1.2%) 1.715 (1.1%) 1.4% (1.2%) 1.715 (1.1%) 1.4% (1.2%) 1.715 (1.1%) 1.4% (1.2%) 1.715 (1.1%) 1.4% (1.2%) 1.715 (1.1%) 1.4% (1.2%) 1.715 (1.1%) 1.4% (1.2%) 1.715 (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.2%) 1.715 (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%) 1.4% (1.1%					
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		, ,	, ,	,	
with Short Acting Data Agenist (SADA) processintian				0 (0.0%)	
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1 9,654 (43.9%) 5,332 (44.5%) 4,322 (43.2%) 2 2,047 (9.3%) 1,178 (9.8%) 869 (8.7%)			·		
with antibiotic prescription		د,U+1 (۵.۵/۵)	1,170 (3.070)	003 (0.1 /0)	
		20 114 (01 1%)	10 909 (91 0%)	9 205 (01 0%)	0.098
1 1,713 (7.8%) 983 (8.2%) 730 (7.3%)					0.030
2 150 (0.7%) 84 (0.7%) 66 (0.7%)				, ,	
3 23 (0.1%) 13 (0.1%) 10 (0.1%)					
5 (0.1%) 13 (0.1%) 10 (0.1%) 4 (0.0%) 1 (0.0%)					

 $\frac{4}{\text{OCS: Oral Corticosteroids. Percentages are given as non-missing.}}$

Supplementary table S3. Comorbidities for 2-18 year olds and 19-65 year olds

	19-65 year olds			
	Total (n=22,005)	OCS (n=11,993)	OCS + Antibiotic (n=10,012)	p-value
COPD	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1.000
Active rhinitis	3,218 (14.6%)	1,885 (15.7%)	1,333 (13.3%)	< 0.001
Active GERD	1,071 (4.9%)	544 (4.5%)	527 (5.3%)	0.013
Active eczema	927 (4.2%)	536 (4.5%)	391 (3.9%)	0.040
Osteoporosis	246 (1.1%)	127 (1.1%)	119 (1.2%)	0.370
Chronic Kidney Disease	226 (1.0%)	114 (1.0%)	112 (1.1%)	0.230
Diabetes	940 (4.3%)	478 (4.0%)	462 (4.6%)	0.023
Hypertension	1124 (5.1%)	584 (4.9%)	540 (5.4%)	0.080
Ischaemic Heart Disease	625 (2.8%)	311 (2.6%)	314 (3.1%)	0.016
Cardiovascular Disease	1,437 (6.5%)	728 (6.1%)	709 (7.1%)	0.003
Heart Failure	50 (0.2%)	23 (0.2%)	27 (0.3%)	0.260
Myocardial Infarction	184 (0.8%)	92 (0.8%)	92 (0.9%)	0.230
Cerebrovascular Disease	271 (1.2%)	126 (1.1%)	145 (1.4%)	0.008
Anxiety and/or Depression	1,887 (8.6%)	1,038 (8.7%)	849 (8.5%)	0.650

2-18 year olds

	Total (n =6,632)	OCS (n=4,538)	OCS + Antibiotic (n=2,094)	p-value
Active rhinitis	909 (13.7%)	624 (13.8%)	285 (13.6%)	0.910
Active eczema	599 (9.0%)	406 (8.9%)	193 (9.2%)	0.710

OCS: Oral Corticosteroids; COPD: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease; GERD: Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease.

	19-65 year olds			
	OCS+			
	Total	ocs	Antibiotic	p-value
	(n=20,024)	(n=10,012)	(n=10,012)	
COPD	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1.0
Active rhinitis	2,879 (14.4%)	1,546 (15.4%)	1,333 (13.3%)	< 0.001
Active GERD	1,015 (5.1%)	488 (4.9%)	527 (5.3%)	0.22
Active eczema	829 (4.1%)	438 (4.4%)	391 (3.9%)	0.10
Osteoporosis	231 (1.2%)	112 (1.1%)	119 (1.2%)	0.69
Chronic Kidney Disease	213 (1.1%)	101 (1.0%)	112 (1.1%)	0.49
Diabetes	904 (4.5%)	442 (4.4%)	462 (4.6%)	0.52
Hypertension	1,077 (5.4%)	537 (5.4%)	540 (5.4%)	0.95
Ischaemic Heart Disease	597 (3.0%)	283 (2.8%)	314 (3.1%)	0.21
Cardiovascular Disease	1,365 (6.8%)	656 (6.6%)	709 (7.1%)	0.14
Heart Failure	49 (0.2%)	22 (0.2%)	27 (0.3%)	0.57
Myocardial Infarction	179 (0.9%)	87 (0.9%)	92 (0.9%)	0.76
Cerebrovascular Disease	259 (1.3%)	114 (1.1%)	145 (1.4%)	0.06
Anxiety and/or Depression	1,717 (8.6%)	868 (8.7%)	849 (8.5%)	0.65
		2-18 year	olds	

_					
_			OCS +		
	Total	ocs	Antibiotic	p-value	
	(n =4,184)	(n=2,092)	(n=2,092)		
	561 (13.4%)	277 (13.2%)	284 (13.6%)	0.79	
	367 (8.8%)	175 (8.4%)	192 (9.2%)	0.38	

OCS: Oral Corticosteroids; COPD: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease; GERD: Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease.

Active rhinitis

Active eczema