



Predictors of severe COVID-19 in a registry-based Swedish cohort of patients with COPD

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Older age, male sex, low educational level, symptom burden, degree of obstruction, underweight, obesity, comorbidity and prior COPD inpatient or secondary care predict severe COVID-19 in patients with COPD <https://bit.ly/2VHZIEm>

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To the Editor:

It is unclear if patients with COPD are at increased risk of becoming infected with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) [1, 2]. However, after contracting SARS-CoV-2, patients with COPD are at high risk of severe coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), a condition associated with morbidity and mortality [3, 4]. Although studies have described COVID-19 cohorts and investigated COPD as a risk factor, studies investigating patients with COPD in relation to risks of COVID-19 remain rare. Approved by the Swedish Ethical Review Authority (2020-02777), the current study was based on the Swedish National Airway Register (SNAR), which includes a large, well-characterised cohort of patients with COPD [5]. In the cohort, patients who have been hospitalised or died from COVID-19 were identified, which afforded a unique opportunity to study predictors of severe COVID-19 in COPD.

