

On-line supplementSummary data

objective	Healthy controls	Asthma		Kruskall Wallis p value across all groups
		low eosinophils	high eosinophils	
<i>integrity of the epithelium</i>				
% intact	16.24 (11.28-22.40)	9.32 (5.53-20.50)	3.35 (0.35-9.01)	P<0.001
% real damage	11.20 (0-24.57)	4.14 (0-14.49)	27.37 (0.27-45.48)	P=0.04
% artifactual damage	70.32 (60.87-81.68)	77.97 (68.19-86.78)	66.01 (44.13-94.13)	P=0.256
<i>goblet cell hyperplasia and epithelial mucin phenotype</i>				
Goblet cell number % of total epithelial cell number	7.67 (4.12-9.69)	8.31 (3.16-11.69)	6.24 (2.42-13.01)	P=0.953
% area Muc2	0 (0-0)	0 (0-0.85)	0.70 (0-2.31)	P=0.001
% area Muc4	0 (0-0)	0 (0-0)	0 (0-0)	P=0.377
% area Muc5AC	4.87 (2.17-5.54)	3.44 (1.06-9.13)	6.67 (1.70-9.53)	P=0.344
% area Muc5B	0 (0-0.53)	0 (0-0.89)	0 (0-0.41)	P=0.997
<i>Smooth muscle proportion & inflammatory cell influx</i>				
Proportion %	26 (21-34)	33 (28-39)	33 (24-41)	P=0.044
Mast cells mm ⁻² of smooth muscle	3.98 (0.81-13.75)	7.49 (4.42-13.54)	13.07 (4.77-24.28)	P=0.023

Eosinophils mm ⁻² of smooth muscle	0 (0-0)	0 (0-0)	0.40 (0-2.96)	P<0.001
Neutrophils mm ⁻² of smooth muscle	0 (0-0)	0 (0-0)	0 (0-0.64)	P=0.024
CD3+ cells mm ⁻² of smooth muscle	0 (0-0)	0 (0-0)	0 (0-1.00)	P<0.001

All data are medians and interquartile ranges