

Supplementary table 2. Baseline characteristics of the participants with and without a diagnostic shift after the second assessment (total n = 102)

	Those who were confirmed to be obstructive during the second assessment (n= 62)	Those who shifted to non- obstructive after the second assessment (n = 40)	P value
Age, mean \pm SD	59.5 \pm 6.6	56.4 \pm 8.8	<0.05*
Men, %	38 (61.3%)	20 (50%)	0.36
Smokers (ex-smokers), %	51 (82.3%)	28 (70%)	0.23
Smoking exposure ^a , n (%)			
Never smoking	11 (17.7%)	13 (32.5%)	0.14
< 10 pack-years	10 (16.1%)	6 (15%)	0.90
\geq 10 and < 20 pack-years	5 (8.1%)	5 (12.5%)	0.70
Smoking 20+ pack/years	36 (58.1%)	16 (40%)	0.11
Dusty job, \geq 10 years, n (%)	14 (23.7%)	13 (34.2%)	0.31
Gas (fumes) job \geq 10 years, n (%)	17 (28.8%)	13 (34.2%)	0,32
Symptoms at the baseline study			
Any cough, n (%)	36 (58.1%)	23 (59%)	0.91
Any dyspnea, n (%)	37 (59.7%)	21 (53.8%)	0.71
All 3 chronic respiratory symptoms together ^b , n (%)	20 (32.3%)	7 (17.9%)	0,17
Family history of asthma, n (%)	3 (4.8%)	6 (15.4%)	0.14
FEV1 (L), post BD baseline, mean \pm SD	2.19 \pm 0.72	2.56 \pm 0.72	<0.05*
FVC (L), post BD baseline, mean \pm SD	3.62 \pm 1.04	3.84 \pm 1.00	0.29
FEV1/FVC, post BD baseline, mean \pm SD	60.3 \pm 9.3	66.3 \pm 3.40	<0.01*
BMI, kg/m2, mean \pm SD	26.9 \pm 5.1	26.8 \pm 5.7	0.93
Current respiratory disease (as reported by the patient)			
Asthma, n (%)	16 (26.2%)	4 (10.3%)	0.09

Any allergic diseases, n (%)	13 (23.3%)	10 (25.6%)	0.80
Chronic bronchitis, n (%)	21 (34.4%)	3 (7.7%)	<0.01**
COPD, n (%)	14 (23%)	0 (0%)	<0.01**
Any respiratory diseases, n (%)	34 (55.7%)	6 (15.4%)	<0.01**

Figures are means \pm SD unless indicated otherwise.

^a One pack-year of smoking indicates that an individual smoked one package of cigarettes (20 cigarettes) daily for 1 year.

^b Chronic respiratory symptoms were defined as the presence of chronic cough and chronic phlegm (on most days for as long as 3 months each year), together with chronic dyspnea.

FEV₁ - Forced expiratory volume in 1 s

FVC - Forced vital capacity

FEV₁/FVC – a ratio of the forced expiratory volume in 1 s to the forced vital capacity

BMI – Body mass index

COPD – Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

*Significant differences (P < .05) within the shift group (p-value for one sample t-test)

** Significant differences (P < .05) within the shift group (p-value for Pearson Chi-square test)