

S1 Table. Extended baseline characteristics of the study population

Characteristic	Overall (N=374)		Intermittent & mild asthma (N=88)		moderate persistent & severe persistent asthma (N=286)		P-value
	N	n (%) or median (IQR)	N	n (%) or median (IQR)	N	n (%) or median (IQR)	
Current age in years, median	369	34 (25 - 45)	88	29 (23 - 41)	281	35 (26 - 46)	0.013
Age when first diagnosed with asthma	372	25 (15 - 36)	87	23 (15 - 33)	285	25 (15 - 36)	0.650
Categories of current age in years	367		87		280		
18 - 24		86 (23.4)		24 (27.6)		62 (22.1)	0.234
25 - 34		102 (27.8)		31 (35.6)		71 (25.4)	
35 - 44		82 (22.3)		15 (17.2)		67 (23.9)	
45 - 54		49 (13.4)		8 (9.2)		41 (14.6)	
55 - 64		37 (10.1)		7 (8)		30 (10.7)	
65+		11 (3)		2 (2.3)		9 (3.2)	
Male Gender	374	88 (23.5)	88	20 (22.7)	286	68 (23.8)	0.839
Overall BMI	374	24.8 (21.6 - 29.5)	88	23.7 (20.9 - 28.9)	286	25.7 (21.6 - 29.7)	0.104
Underweight		22 (5.9)		5 (5.7)		17 (5.9)	
Normal		168 (44.9)		50 (56.8)		118 (41.3)	0.040
Overweight		103 (27.5)		15 (17)		88 (30.8)	
Obese		81 (21.7)		18 (20.5)		63 (22)	
Marital Status	374		88		286		
Single		131 (35)		35 (39.8)		96 (33.6)	0.031
Married		188 (50.3)		44 (50)		144 (50.3)	
Separated		27 (7.2)		8 (9.1)		19 (6.6)	
Widowed		28 (7.5)		1 (1.1)		27 (9.4)	
Highest level of education	374		88		286		
None		14 (3.7)		2 (2.3)		12 (4.2)	0.001
Primary		118 (31.6)		16 (18.2)		102 (35.7)	
Secondary		133 (35.6)		46 (52.3)		87 (30.4)	
Tertiary		109 (29.1)		24 (27.3)		85 (29.7)	
Occupational risk	373		88		285		

Low		200 (53.6)		45 (51.1)		155 (54.4)	0.347
Moderate		123 (33.0)		34 (38.6)		89 (31.2)	
High		50 (13.4)		9 (10.2)		41 (14.4)	
Cough	374	170 (45.5)	88	31 (35.2)	286	139 (48.6)	0.028
Duration in days	170	7 (5 - 30)	31	7 (7 - 30)	139	7 (5 - 30)	0.716
Wheezing	374	152 (40.6)	88	24 (27.3)	286	128 (44.8)	0.004
Duration in days	152	7 (5 - 25.5)	24	10.5 (7 - 22)	128	7 (4 - 25.5)	0.267
Chest Pain	374	119 (31.8)	88	18 (20.5)	286	101 (35.3)	0.009
Duration in days	118	7 (7 - 14)	18	10.5 (7 - 16)	100	7 (3 - 14)	0.157
Shortness of breath	374	105 (28.1)	88	14 (15.9)	286	91 (31.8)	0.004
Duration in days	105	7 (3 - 14)	14	14 (7 - 30)	91	7 (3 - 14)	0.081
Blocked Nose	374	32 (8.6)	88	6 (6.8)	286	26 (9.1)	0.505
Duration in days	32	8.5 (5 - 30)	6	10.5 (5 - 30)	26	8.5 (5 - 30)	0.942
Running nose	374	22 (5.9)	88	8 (9.1)	286	14 (4.9)	0.144
Duration in days	22	12 (7 - 30)	8	7 (7 - 30)	14	14 (7 - 30)	0.422
Sputum production	374	22 (5.9)	88	3 (3.4)	286	19 (6.6)	0.312
Duration in days	21	7 (41760)	3	7 (11140)	18	7 (41760)	0.627
Sore throat	374	4 (1.1)	88	0 (0)	286	4 (1.4)	0.577
Duration in days	4	5 (2.5 - 18.5)	0		4	5 (2.5 - 18.5)	NA
Level of asthma control	372						
Well controlled		94 (25.3)	88	46 (52.3)	284	48 (16.8)	0.000
Not well controlled		278 (74.7)		42 (47.7)		236 (82.5)	
Currently comorbidities	374		88		286		
Rhino sinusitis		115 (30.7)		33 (37.5)		82 (28.7)	0.117
Gastroesophageal reflux disease		90 (24.1)		15 (17)		75 (26.2)	0.078
Hypertension		42 (11.2)		7 (8)		35 (12.2)	0.266
HIV		28 (7.5)		3 (3.4)		25 (8.7)	0.109
Eczema/dermatitis		23 (6.1)		3 (3.4)		20 (7)	0.311
Obstructive sleep apnea		10 (2.7)		1 (1.1)		9 (3.1)	0.463
Depression or other psychiatry illness		3 (0.8)		0 (0)		3 (1)	1.000
Heart failure		1 (0.3)		0 (0)		1 (0.3)	1.000
Nasal polyps		0 (0)		0 (0)		0 (0)	NA
COPD		0 (0)		0 (0)		0 (0)	NA
None of the above		171 (45.7)		42 (47.7)		147 (51.4)	0.385

Pre-measurements			88		286		
FVC	374	2.9 (2.2 - 3.4)		3.3 (2.9 - 3.6)		2.7 (2.1 - 3.2)	0.000
FVC%	374	100 (83 - 112)		110 (103 - 120)		95.5 (78 - 109)	0.000
FEV1	374	2.1 (1.6 - 2.7)		2.6 (2.3 - 3.0)		1.97 (1.4 - 2.5)	0.000
FEV1%	374	88 (65 - 105)		103 (91.5 - 115.5)		79 (60 - 100)	0.000
FEV1/FVC ratio	374	0.76 (0.66 - 0.84)		0.82 (0.74 - 0.88)		0.73 (0.63 - 0.83)	0.000
Lung function	374						
Normal		201 (53.7)		76 (86.4)		125 (43.7)	0.000
Poor		173 (46.3)		12 (13.6)		161 (56.3)	
Post-measurement			9		117		
FVC	126	2.6 (2.2 - 3.4)		3.1 (2.8 - 3.6)		2.62 (2.2 - 3.4)	0.050
FVC %	126	99.5 (80 - 112)		117 (111 - 120)		97 (80 - 111)	0.002
FEV1	126	1.8 (1.3 - 2.3)		2.3 (2.1 - 2.5)		1.73 (1.29 - 2.2)	0.010
FEV1%	126	73.5 (56 - 89)		98 (92 - 103)		71 (56 - 87)	0.000
FEV1/FVC ratio	126	0.65 (0.56 - 0.71)		0.74 (0.7 - 0.76)		0.64 (0.56 - 0.71)	0.006
Methacholine challenge test	361		85		277		
Positive		23 (6.4)		2 (2.4)		21 (7.6)	0.190
Negative		338 (93.4)		83 (97.6)		255 (92.1)	
Skin prick, at least one allergen positive	331		71		260	(0)	
Yes		310 (93.7)		67 (94.4)		243 (93.5)	1.000
No		21 (6.3)		4 (5.6)		17 (6.5)	
Eosinophilic count	374						
AEC<500		310 (82.9)		72 (81.8)		238 (83.2)	0.761
AEC>=500		64 (17.1)		16 (18.2)		48 (16.8)	
Eosinophil count	374	210 (110 - 390)		200 (110 - 410)		215 (100 - 390)	0.984
Total BHQ score	374	72 (49 - 98)	88	61.5 (32.5 - 78.5)	286	77.5 (53 - 102)	0.000
Patient uses ICS	370	34 (9.2)	87	3 (3.4)	283	31 (11)	0.034
History of smoking	374		88		286		
Current smoker		1 (0.3)		0 (0)		1 (0.3)	0.569
Former smoker		22 (5.9)		7 (8)		15 (5.2)	
Never		351 (93.9)		81 (92)		270 (94.4)	
Secondary smoker	374	20 (5.3)	88	4 (4.5)	286	16 (5.6)	1.000
Relatives who have asthma	372		87		285		
Yes		222 (59.7)		50 (57.5)		172 (60.4)	0.149

No		89 (23.9)		27 (31)		62 (21.8)	
Don't know		61 (16.4)		10 (11.5)		51 (17.9)	
Exposed to firewood/ charcoal smoke	374	344 (92)	88	76 (86.4)	286	268 (93.7)	0.027
Use of kerosene for lighting or cooking	374	374 (100)	88	12 (13.6)	286	37 (12.9)	0.865
Depression status according to total PHQ-9 score	374		88		286		
No depression		15 (4)		9 (10.2)		6 (2.1)	0.000
Minimal depression		96 (25.7)		27 (30.7)		69 (24.1)	
Mild depression		113 (30.2)		32 (36.4)		81 (28.3)	
Moderate depression		92 (24.6)		11 (12.5)		81 (28.3)	
Moderately severe depression		47 (12.6)		9 (10.2)		38 (13.3)	
Severe depression		11 (2.9)		0 (0)		11 (3.8)	
Patient uses inhaler medication	370	108 (29.2)	87	13 (14.9)	283	95 (33.6)	0.001
Asthma triggers	374		88		286		
Upper respiratory infection		371 (99.2)		87 (98.9)		284 (99.3)	0.514
Exposure to household pets such as cats, dogs or poultry		13 (3.5)		4 (4.5)		9 (3.1)	0.514
Smoking or exposure to tobacco smoke		356 (95.2)		81 (92)		275 (96.2)	0.115
Strong emotions such as anger, excitement, anxiety		223 (59.6)		45 (51.1)		178 (62.2)	0.063
Cold weather		341 (91.2)		82 (93.2)		259 (90.6)	0.448
Drugs such those treating high blood pressure and pain killers like aspirin		1 (0.3)				1 (0.3)	1.000
Exercise		116 (31)		21 (23.9)		95 (33.2)	0.097
Dust		359 (96)		83 (94.3)		276 (96.5)	0.361
Strong smells or perfumes		315 (84.2)		74 (84.1)		241 (84.3)	0.969
Exposure at work		13 (3.5)		2 (2.3)		11 (3.8)	0.741
Other		5 (1.3)		2 (2.3)		3 (1)	0.336
None of the above		0 (0)		0 (0)		0 (0)	NA