

Supplemental table 2. Supplementary baseline characteristics of the study population.

	Total	No ICS	Low ICS	Medium ICS	High ICS
no. of subjects	18867 (100.0)	5687 (30.1)	4361 (23.1)	4457 (23.6)	4362 (23.1)
Pulmonary parameters					
MRC, median (IQR)	3 (2-4)	2 (2-3)	3 (2-3)	3 (2-4)	3 (3-4)
MRC group					
MRC 1	1904 (10.1)	1062 (18.7)	704 (16.1)	533 (12.0)	436 (10.0)
MRC 2	5669 (30.0)	2320 (40.8)	1682 (38.6)	1415 (31.7)	1083 (24.8)
MRC 3	6259 (33.2)	1918 (33.7)	1691 (38.8)	1817 (40.8)	1664 (38.1)
MRC 4	3956 (21.0)	1058 (18.6)	1030 (23.6)	1266 (28.4)	1433 (32.9)
MRC 5	2187 (11.6)	590 (10.4)	574 (13.2)	758 (17.0)	1096 (25.1)
Unknown MRC	277 (1.5)	124 (2.2)	65 (1.5)	53 (1.2)	35 (0.8)
Comorbidity					
Charlson Comorbidity Index	4 (3-5)	4 (3-5)	4 (3-5)	4 (3-5)	4 (3-5)
Systemic connective tissue disease					
Inflammatory polyarthropathy	699 (3.7)	212 (3.7)	178 (4.1)	166 (3.7)	143 (3.3)
Depression	676 (3.6)	168 (3.0)	165 (3.8)	175 (3.9)	168 (3.9)
Use of medication 12 months prior to cohort entry					
Antibiotics*	13005 (68.9)	3321 (58.4)	2981 (68.4)	3249 (72.9)	3449 (79.1)
Oral corticosteroids (accumulated dose in 12 months)					
≤500 mg	3631 (19.2)	686 (12.1)	898 (20.6)	984 (22.1)	1063 (24.4)
>500 mg	3602 (19.1)	388 (6.8)	680 (15.6)	1086 (24.4)	1448 (33.2)

Data are presented as n (%) unless otherwise specified. MRC, Medical Research Council Dyspnoea Scale. *Redeemed prescription of any antibiotic drug 12 months prior to study entry.