

**Table S1.** Comparison between people included and excluded in the analysis.

Baseline characteristic at age 65	Included in this analysis	Excluded due to missing data on variables in the returned survey	Excluded as did not participate in the survey
N	672	235	395
Body mass index, mean (SD) (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	28.2 (4.1)	27.9 (3.8)	28.5 (4.4)
FEV <sub>1</sub> , mean (SD) (%)	3.2 (0.6)	3.2 (0.5)	3.1 (0.6)
FVC, mean (SD) (l)	4.2 (0.7)	4.2 (0.7)	4.1 (0.8)
Smoking status			
Current smoker	72 (10.7%)	19 (8.1%)	77 (19.5%)
Former smoker	379 (56.4%)	135 (57.4%)	193 (48.9%)
Never smoked	221 (32.9%)	81 (34.5%)	125 (31.6%)
Packet years of smoking, mean (SD)	21.4 (18.2)	18.6 (16.1)	27.1 (22.8)
Angina pectoris			
Yes	41 (6.1%)	13 (5.5%)	31 (7.8%)
No	620 (92.3%)	218 (92.8%)	357 (90.4%)
Unknown	10 (1.5%)	4 (1.7%)	6 (1.5%)
Missing	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.3%)
Stroke			
Yes	18 (2.7%)	5 (2.1%)	19 (4.8%)
No	648 (96.4%)	228 (97.0%)	375 (94.9%)
Unknown	5 (0.7%)	2 (0.9%)	0 (0.0%)
Missing	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.3%)
Myocardial infarction			
Yes	34 (5.1%)	10 (4.3%)	30 (7.6%)
No	631 (93.9%)	221 (94.0%)	358 (90.6%)
Unknown	6 (0.9%)	3 (1.3%)	6 (1.5%)
Missing	1 (0.1%)	1 (0.4%)	1 (0.3%)
Diabetes mellitus			
Yes	48 (7.1%)	31 (13.2%)	53 (13.4%)
No	620 (92.3%)	203 (86.4%)	340 (86.1%)
Unknown	4 (0.6%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.3%)
Missing	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.4%)	1 (0.3%)
Asthma			
Yes	34 (5.1%)	13 (5.5%)	24 (6.1%)
No	634 (94.3%)	217 (92.3%)	363 (91.9%)
Unknown	3 (0.4%)	4 (1.7%)	7 (1.8%)
Missing	1 (0.1%)	1 (0.4%)	1 (0.3%)

Abbreviations: FEV<sub>1</sub>, forced expiratory volume in 1 second; FVC, forced vital capacity.

**Table S2.** Crude association for each breathlessness dimension with physical or mental quality of life (QoL) assessed using the Short Form 12 (SF-12)

	<b>Association with physical QoL Beta (95% CI)</b>	<b>Association with mental QoL Beta (95% CI)</b>
<b>D-12</b>		
Total score	-0.44 (-0.51 to -0.38)	-0.32 (-0.39 to -0.25)
Physical score	-0.44 (-0.50 to -0.37)	-0.31 (-0.38 to -0.24)
Affective score	-0.38 (-0.44 to -0.31)	-0.30 (-0.37 to -0.23)
<b>MDP</b>		
A1 unpleasantness score	-0.40 (-0.46 to -0.33)	-0.31 (-0.38 to -0.23)
Perception score	-0.38 (-0.44 to -0.31)	-0.29 (-0.36 to -0.22)
Emotional response score	-0.29 (-0.36 to -0.22)	-0.47 (-0.54 to -0.41)
<b>Descriptors</b>		
Muscle work or effort	-0.28 (-0.35 to -0.21)	-0.26 (-0.33 to -0.18)
Air hunger	-0.29 (-0.37 to -0.22)	-0.24 (-0.31 to -0.17)
Chest tightness or constriction	-0.27 (-0.34 to -0.20)	-0.26 (-0.33 to -0.19)
Mental effort or concentration	-0.27 (-0.34 to -0.20)	-0.27 (-0.34 to -0.20)
Breathing a lot	-0.25 (-0.32 to -0.18)	-0.21 (-0.29 to -0.14)
<b>Emotional responses</b>		
Depression	-0.20 (-0.27 to -0.13)	-0.53 (-0.59 to -0.46)
Anxiety	-0.24 (-0.31 to -0.16)	-0.51 (-0.57 to -0.44)
Frustration	-0.29 (-0.36 to -0.22)	-0.40 (-0.47 to -0.34)
Anger	-0.22 (-0.29 to -0.15)	-0.37 (-0.44 to -0.30)
Fright	-0.24 (-0.31 to -0.16)	-0.46 (-0.53 to -0.39)

To be able to compare the strengths of the associations between the different scales, all scores were log transformed (to yield more normal distributions) and analyzed as z-scores. Associations are analyzed for each breathlessness score separately using uni-variable linear regression.