

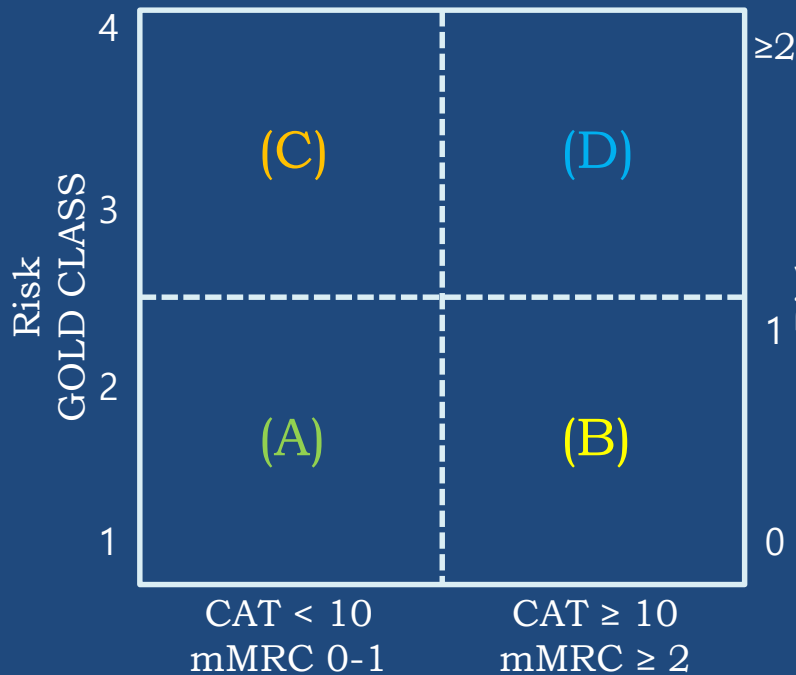
# De-escalation of Triple Therapy in COPD

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CHA University

# GOLD Recommendation

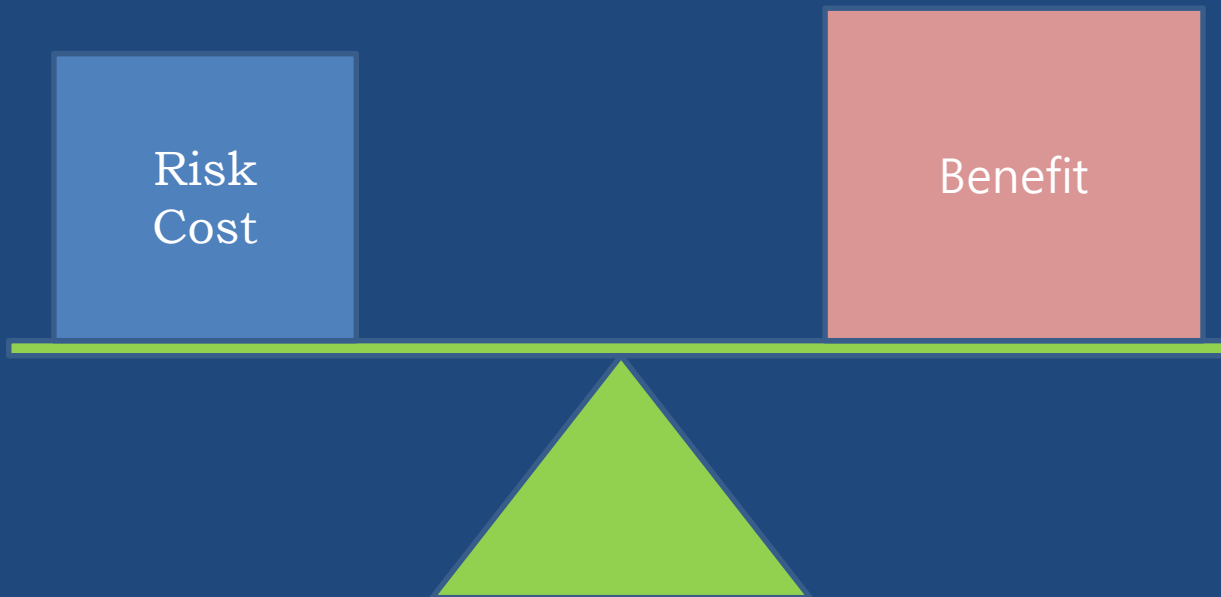


Group	First Choice	Alternatives
A	prn SAMA or prn SABA	LAMA or LABA or SABA/SAMA
B	LAMA or LABA	LAMA/LABA
C	ICS/LABA or LAMA	LAMA/LABA or LAMA/PDE4I or LABA/PDE4I
D	ICS/LABA and/or LAMA	ICS/LABA and LAMA or ICS/LABA and PDE4I or LAMA/LABA or LAMA/PDE4I

: Triple Therapy

From the *Global Strategy for the Diagnosis, Management and Prevention of COPD*, Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD) 2016. Available from: <http://www.goldcopd.org/>.

# Risk and Benefit

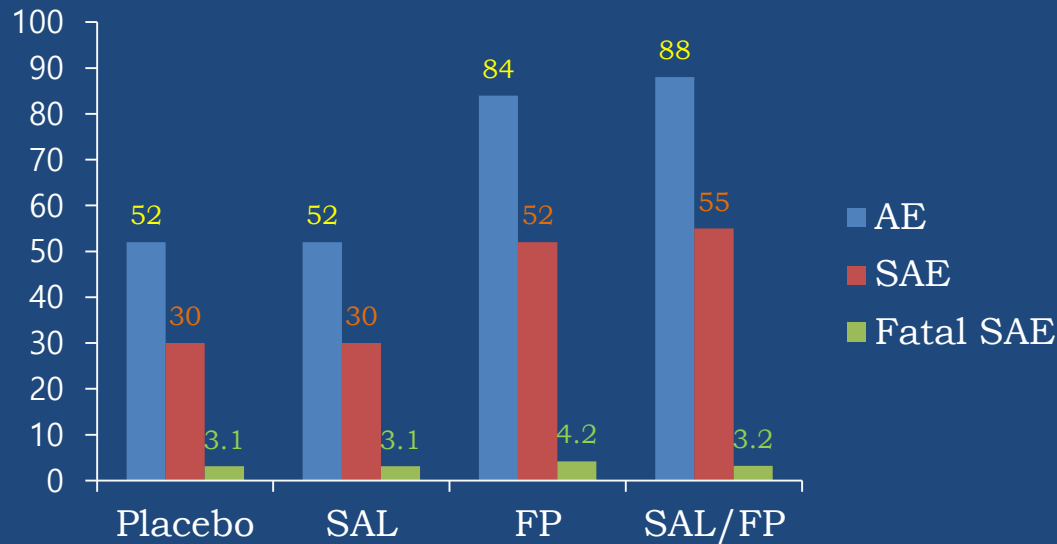


# Contents

- Risk of ICS
- Benefit of ICS
- Withdrawal of ICS
- Cost

# ICS and Risks

- Pneumonia

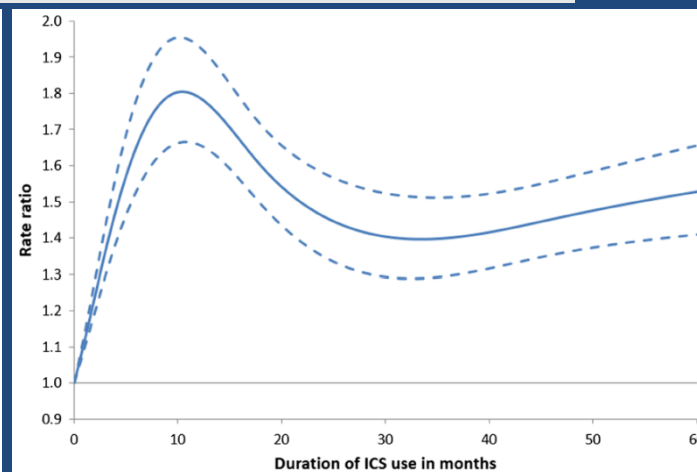
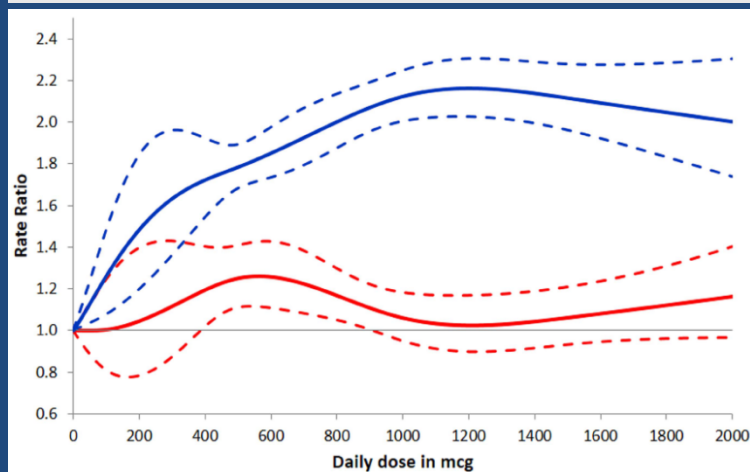


From TORCH, Event rate per 1000 Tx-yrs

# ICS and Risks

- Pneumonia: population based nested case-control study
- 163,514 patients (Quebec health insurance database)

ICS exposure	Cases	Controls	Crude rate ratio	Adjusted* rate ratio	95% CI
Prior COPD hospitalisation					
Number of subjects	2975	8249			
No use, %†	23.03	30.56	1.00	1.00	Reference
Fluticasone current use, %‡	39.36	27.48	1.96	1.75	1.56 to 1.97
Budesonide current use, %‡	5.71	5.32	1.39	1.19	0.97 to 1.47
No prior COPD hospitalisation					
Number of subjects	17 369	189 456			
No use, %†	50.48	62.48	1.00	1.00	Reference
Fluticasone current use, %‡	21.99	11.58	2.47	2.01	1.92 to 2.10
Budesonide current use, %‡	5.07	4.80	1.34	1.14	1.06 to 1.23



# ICS and Risks

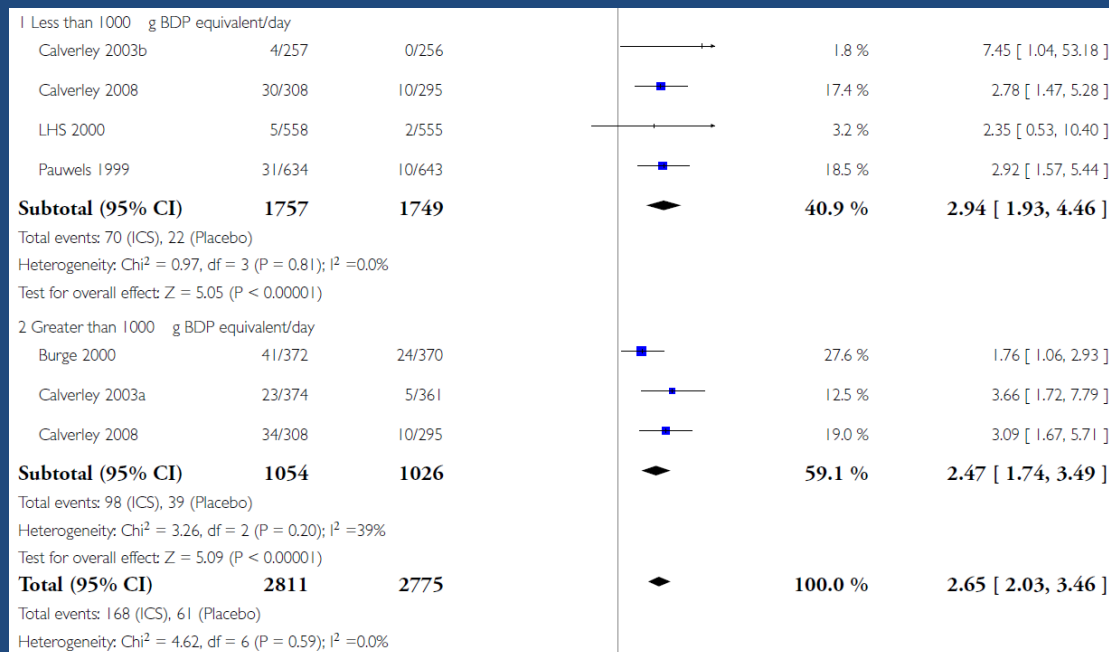
- Pneumonia: Discontinuation of ICS and Risk
- 103,386 patients (Quebec health insurance database)

Variable	Pneumonia Case Subjects	Control Subjects	Crude RR	Adjusted <sup>a</sup> RR	95% CI
No. of subjects	14,020	132,697	...	...	...
Any inhaled corticosteroid					
Current use <sup>b</sup>	45.6	30.3	1.00	1.00	Reference
Discontinued use	54.4	69.7	0.48	0.63	0.60-0.66
Fluticasone					
Current use	31.0	17.0	1.00	1.00	Reference
Discontinued use	30.8	34.0	0.48	0.58	0.54-0.61
Budesonide					
Current use	5.6	6.6	1.00	1.00	Reference
Discontinued use	9.3	16.5	0.65	0.87	0.78-0.97
Other ICS <sup>c</sup>					
Current use	9.0	6.7	1.00	1.00	Reference
Discontinued use	14.3	19.2	0.52	0.75	0.68-0.82

*Chest* 2015;148(5):1177-1183

# ICS and Risks

- Candidiasis



# ICS and Risks

- Tuberculosis

*Chest* 2013;143(4):1018-1024

*Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 2011;183(5):675-678

- Cataracts

*N Engl J Med* 1997;337(1):8-14

*Eur Respir J* 2006;27(6):1168-1174

- Osteoporosis and fracture

*Thorax* 2011;66(8):699-708

- Glaucoma / Diabetes mellitus / Adrenal insufficiency

*Am J Med* 2010;123(11):1001-1006

*Endocrinol Diabetes Metab Case Rep* 2014;2014:130080

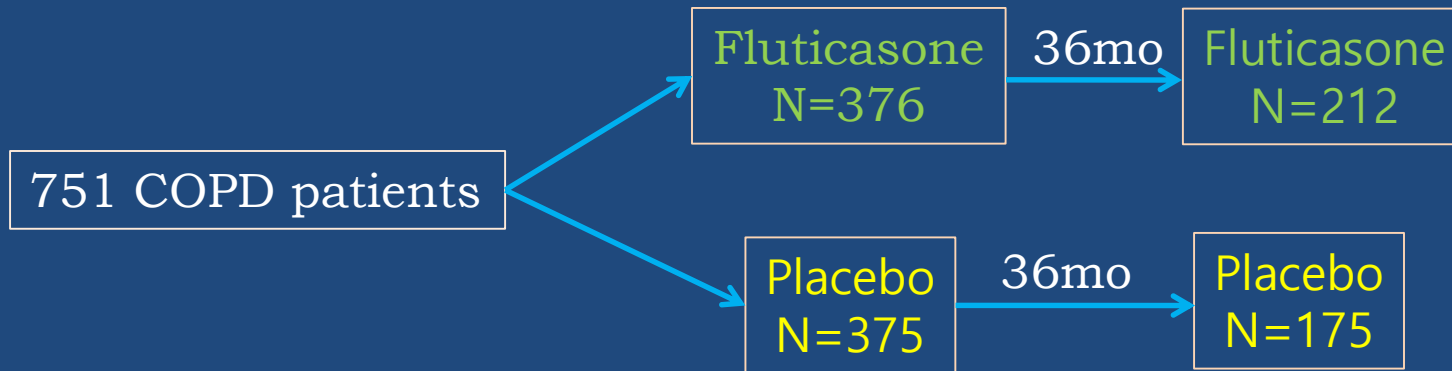
*Eur Respir J* 2015;45(2):525-537

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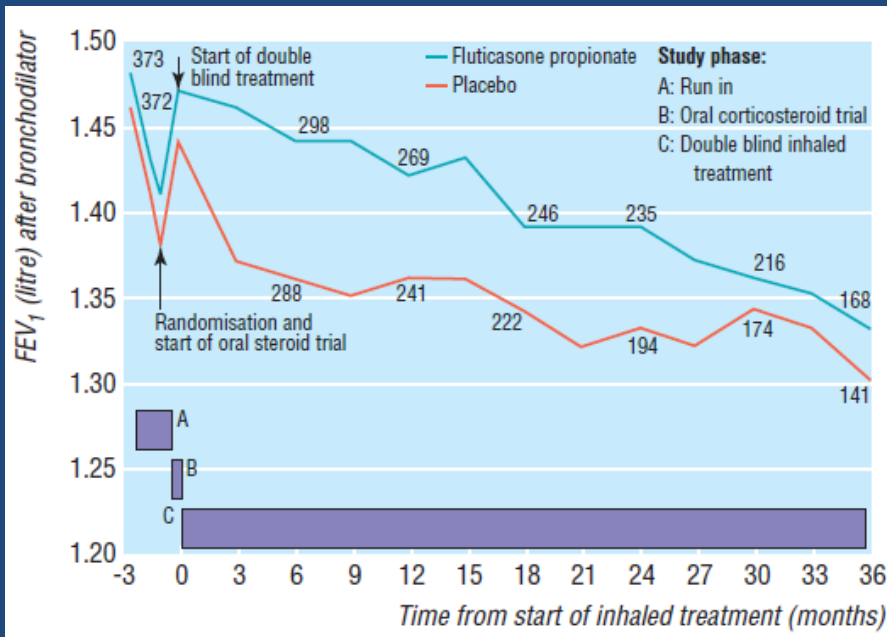
# The ISOLDE Study

- Fluticasone propionate (500)



# The ISOLDE Study

Efficacy parameter	Placebo	Fluticasone propionate	Treatment difference between drug and placebo (95% CI)	P value
<b>FEV<sub>1</sub> after bronchodilator:</b>				
No of patients	325*	339*		
Mean change in FEV <sub>1</sub> ml/year (SE)	-59 (4.4)	-50 (4.1)	9 (6.0) (-3 to 20)	0.161
Predicted FEV <sub>1</sub> at 3 months	1.37	1.44	0.076 (0.056 to 0.097)	<0.001
Predicted FEV <sub>1</sub> at 3 years	1.20	1.30	0.100 (0.064 to 0.135)	<0.001
<b>Health status:</b>				
No of patients	291*	309*		
Mean change in questionnaire score (SE) (units/year)	3.17 (0.31)	2.00 (0.29)	-1.17 (0.40) (-1.95 to -0.39)	0.004
<b>Annual exacerbation rate:</b>				
No of patients	370	372		
Mean (SD) rates	1.90 (2.63)	1.43 (1.93)		
Median (range) rates	1.32 (0 to 30)	0.99 (0 to 26)	-0.3 (-0.4 to 0.0)†	0.026



BMJ 2000;320:1297-1303

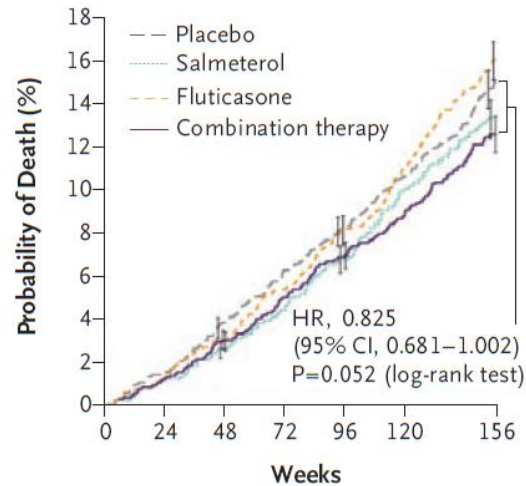
# The TORCH Study

- 6184 COPD patients: Placebo, SAL, FP, SAL/FP

Efficacy analysis for exacerbation					Rate Ratio (95% CI)		
Annual rate							
Moderate or severe	1.13	0.97	0.93	0.85	Combination therapy vs. placebo	0.75 (0.69–0.81)	<0.001
					Combination therapy vs. salmeterol	0.88 (0.81–0.95)	0.002
					Combination therapy vs. fluticasone propionate	0.91 (0.84–0.99)	0.02
					Salmeterol vs. placebo	0.85 (0.78–0.93)	<0.001
					Fluticasone propionate vs. placebo	0.82 (0.76–0.89)	<0.001
Requiring systemic corticosteroids	0.80	0.64	0.52	0.46	Combination therapy vs. placebo	0.57 (0.51–0.64)	<0.001
					Combination therapy vs. salmeterol	0.71 (0.63–0.79)	<0.001
					Combination therapy vs. fluticasone propionate	0.87 (0.78–0.98)	0.02
					Salmeterol vs. placebo	0.80 (0.72–0.90)	<0.001
					Fluticasone propionate vs. placebo	0.65 (0.58–0.73)	<0.001
Severe (requiring hospitalization)	0.19	0.16	0.17	0.16	Combination therapy vs. placebo	0.83 (0.71–0.98)	0.03
					Combination therapy vs. salmeterol	1.02 (0.87–1.20)	0.79
					Combination therapy vs. fluticasone propionate	0.95 (0.82–1.12)	0.56
					Salmeterol vs. placebo	0.82 (0.69–0.96)	0.02
					Fluticasone propionate vs. placebo	0.88 (0.74–1.03)	0.10

# The TORCH Study

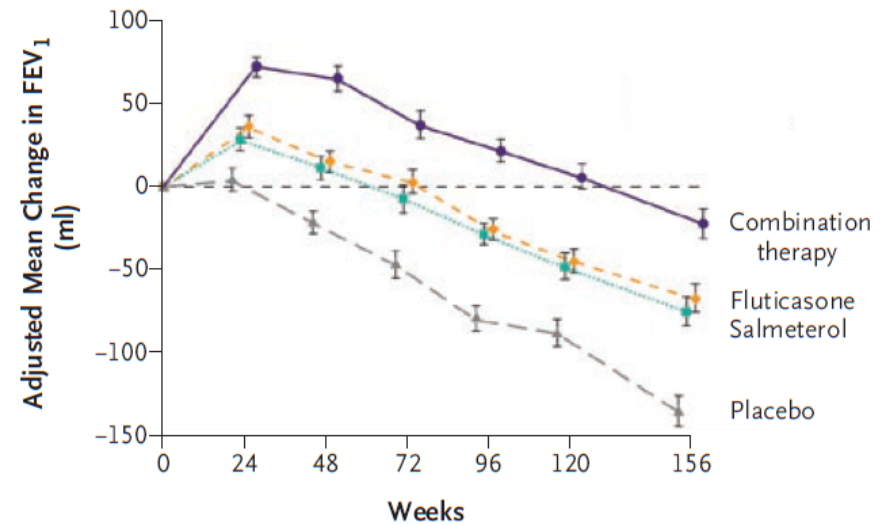
**B** Death from Any Cause



**No. of Patients**

Placebo	1524	1500	1464	1428	1399	1361	1293
Salmeterol	1521	1502	1481	1451	1417	1368	1316
Fluticasone	1534	1512	1487	1450	1409	1363	1288
Combination therapy	1533	1514	1487	1456	1426	1393	1339

**E** FEV<sub>1</sub>



**No. of Patients**

Placebo	1524	1248	1128	1049	979	906	819
Salmeterol	1521	1317	1218	1127	1054	1012	934
Fluticasone	1534	1346	1230	1157	1078	1006	908
Combination therapy	1533	1375	1281	1180	1139	1073	975

# Benefit of ICS

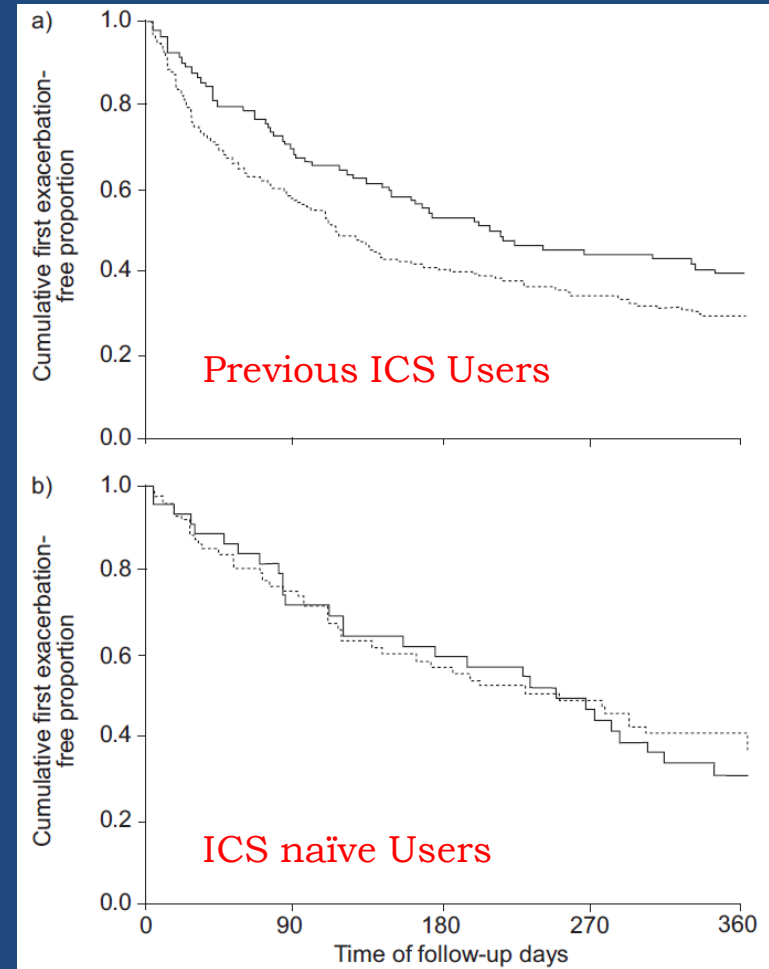
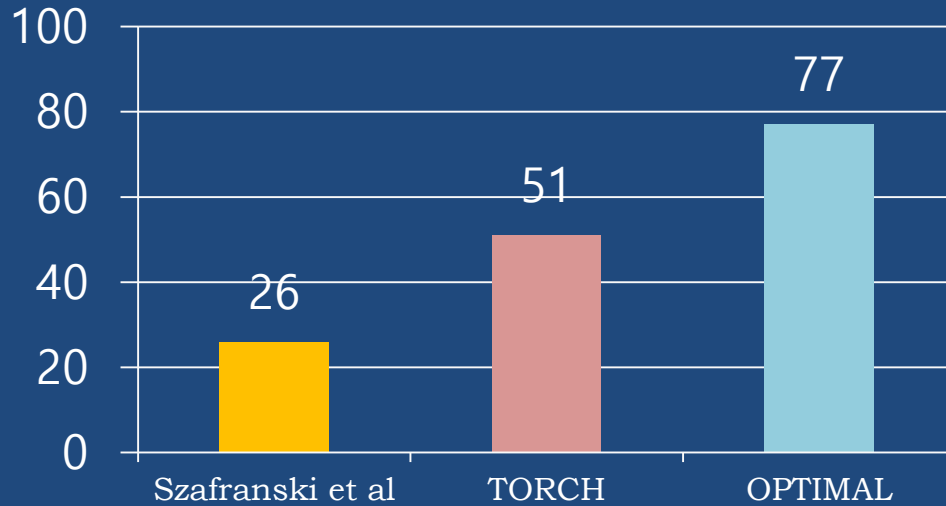
- Reduce Exacerbations
- Improve Symptoms and QOL
- No sufficient evidence: mortality benefit, lung function decline

# Methodological Issues

- Methodological Issues including TORCH
  - Many patients were already receiving ICS before randomization
  - Analyses did not look beyond the first exacerbation
  - Stopped following the patients who discontinued the drugs
  - Did not fully exploit the data

# Methodological Issues

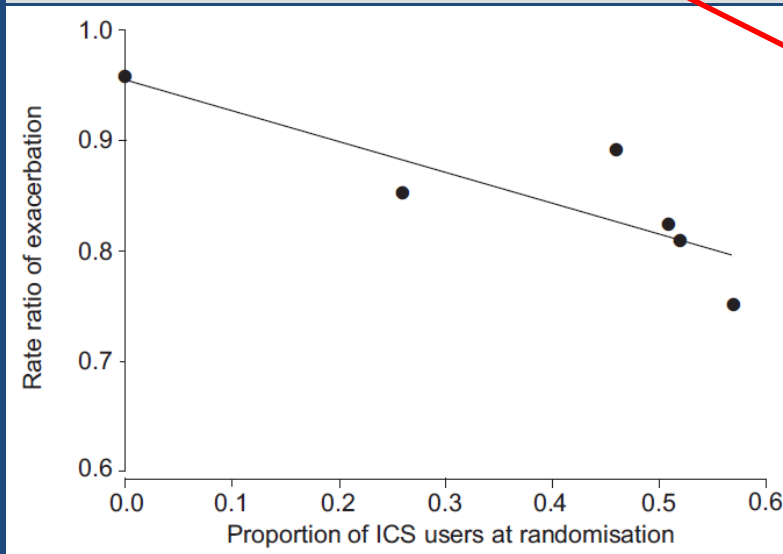
Previous ICS Users in Placebo Group %



# Methodological Issues

**TABLE 2** Randomised controlled trials comparing an inhaled corticosteroid (ICS; alone) to placebo that include data on the rate ratio of exacerbation and previous use of ICSs prior to randomisation

First author [Ref.]	ICS		Placebo			Rate ratio of exacerbation	p-value
	Subjects n	Withdrawal %	Subjects n	Withdrawal %	Prior ICS use %		
VESTBO [18]	145	25	145	35	0	0.96	0.736 <sup>#</sup>
BURGE [19]	372	43	370	53	57	0.75	0.026
SZAFRANSKI [6]	198	31	205	44	26	0.85	0.224
CALVERLEY [20]	374	29	361	39	52	0.81	0.003
CALVERLEY [7]	257	40	256	41	46	0.89	0.308
CALVERLEY [1]	1534	38	1524	44	51	0.82	0.001

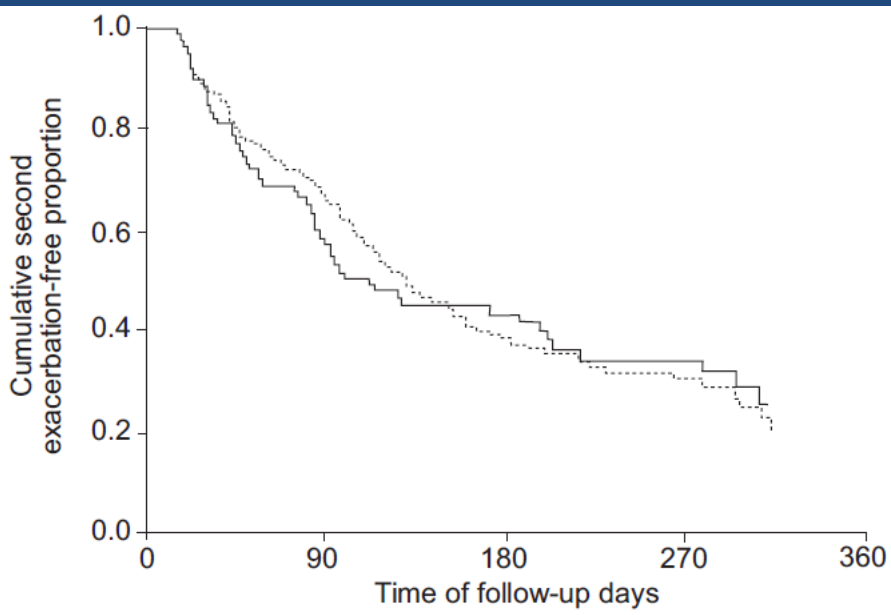


Possible bias

# Methodological Issues

**TABLE 3** Analyses of the effect of inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) use compared with bronchodilators on the rate of exacerbation over different follow-up periods using the Canadian Optimal Therapy of COPD Trial data

Follow-up period	Subjects n	Rate of exacerbation yr <sup>-1</sup>		Rate ratio (95% CI)
		ICS	Bronchodilators	
Entire observation period	449	1.39	1.67	0.83 (0.66–1.04)
Until discontinuation only	449	1.30	1.69	0.78 (0.61–0.99)
After discontinuation	137	2.02	1.64	1.23 (0.78–1.95)



# Methodological Issues

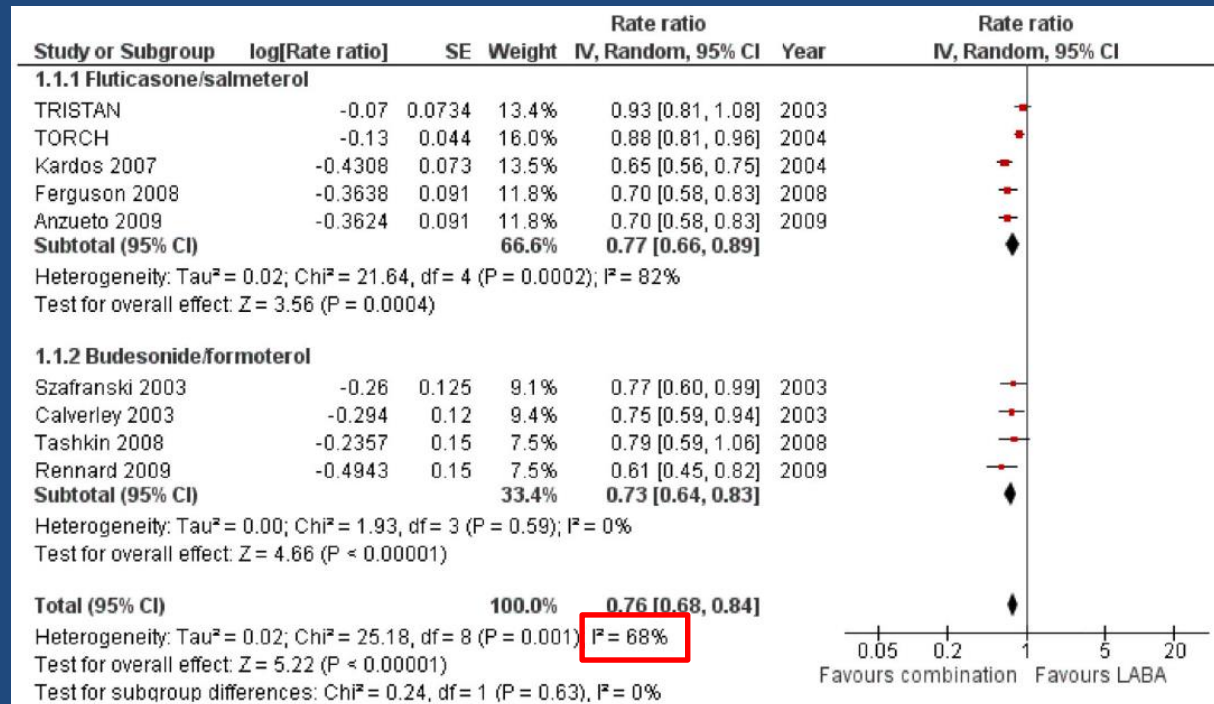
**TABLE 4** Factorial analysis of Towards a Revolution in COPD Health (TORCH) data of the independent effects of fluticasone and salmeterol on the 3-yr incidence of all-cause mortality

	Medication allocated		Crude RR	Adjusted RR (95% CI)
	Yes deaths/total n	No deaths/total n		
<b>Medication</b>				
Fluticasone	439/3067	436/3045	1.00	1.00 (0.89–1.13)
Salmeterol	398/3054	477/3058	0.83	0.83 (0.74–0.95)

RR: relative rate ratio; CI: confidence interval.

# Methodological Issues

	Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Blinding (performance bias and detection bias)	Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias): Mortality	Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias): All other outcomes	Selective reporting (reporting bias)
Anzueto 2009	+	?	+	-	-	+
Calverley 2003	?	?	+	-	-	-
Dal Negro 2003	?	?	+	?	?	-
Ferguson 2008	+	?	?	-	-	-
Hanania 2003	?	?	+	-	-	-
Kardos 2007	+	+	+	-	-	+
Mahler 2002	?	?	+	-	-	-
O'Donnell 2006	?	?	+	+	+	-
Rennard 2009	?	?	+	-	-	-
SCO100470	?	?	+	?	?	-
Szafranski 2003	+	+	+	-	-	-
Tashkin 2008	+	?	+	-	-	?
TORCH	+	+	+	-	-	-
TRISTAN	+	+	+	-	-	-

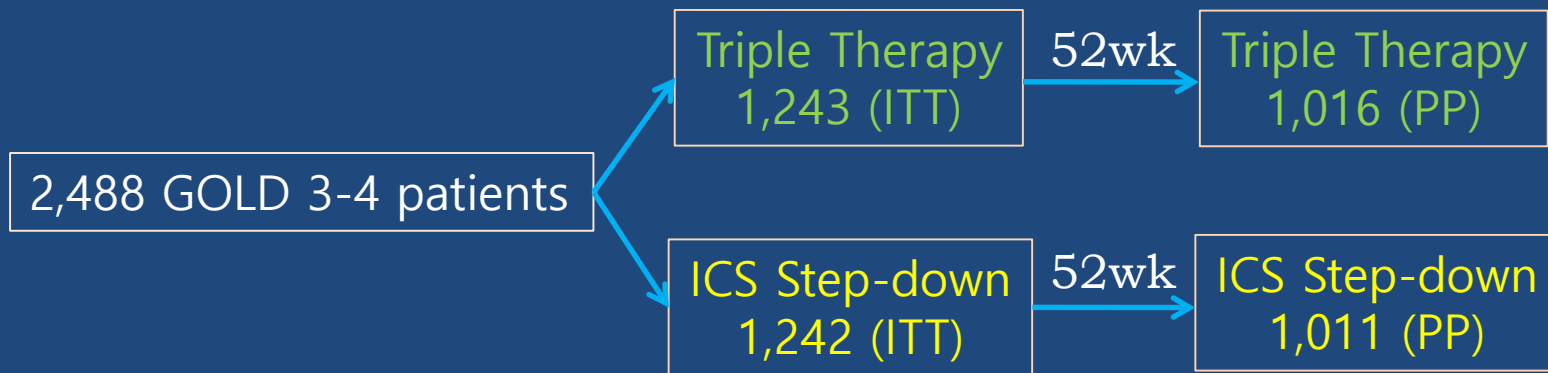


# Contents

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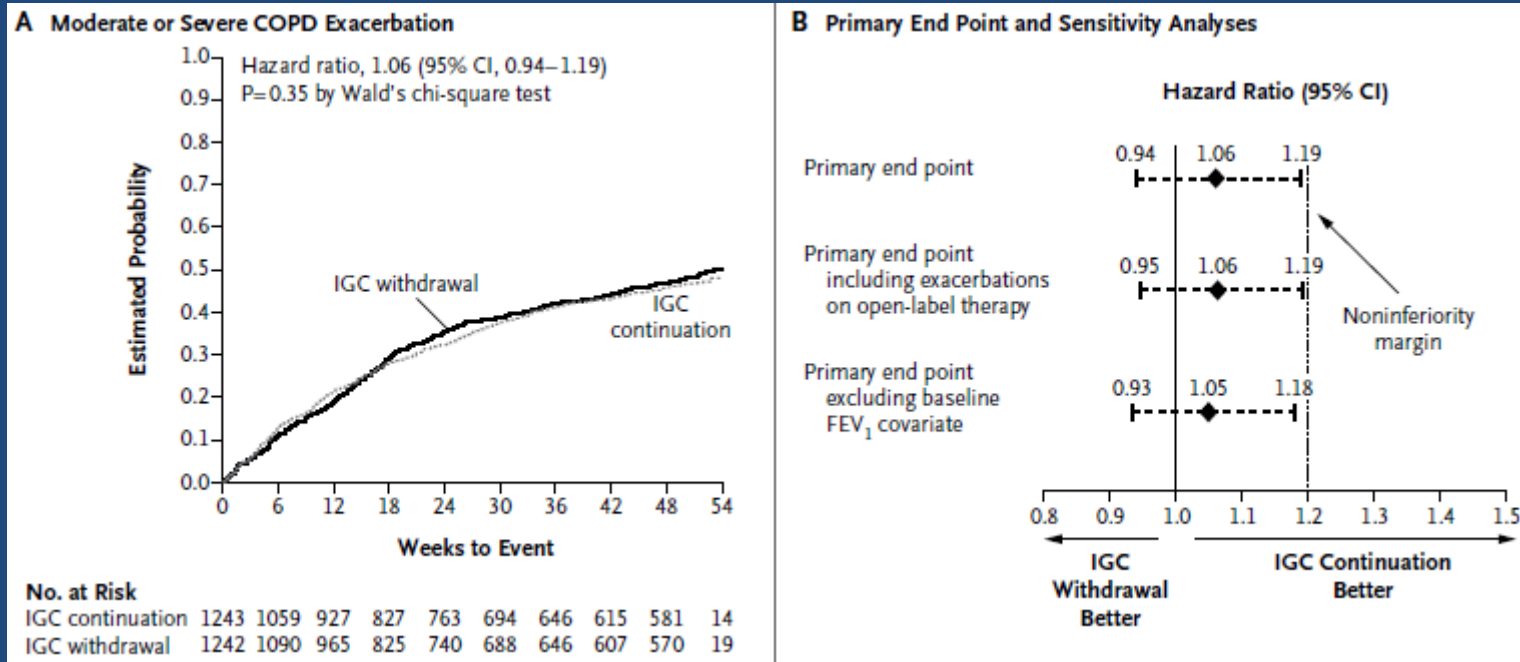
# The WISDOM Study

- Triple Therapy vs ICS Step-Down: Non-inferiority design



# The WISDOM Study

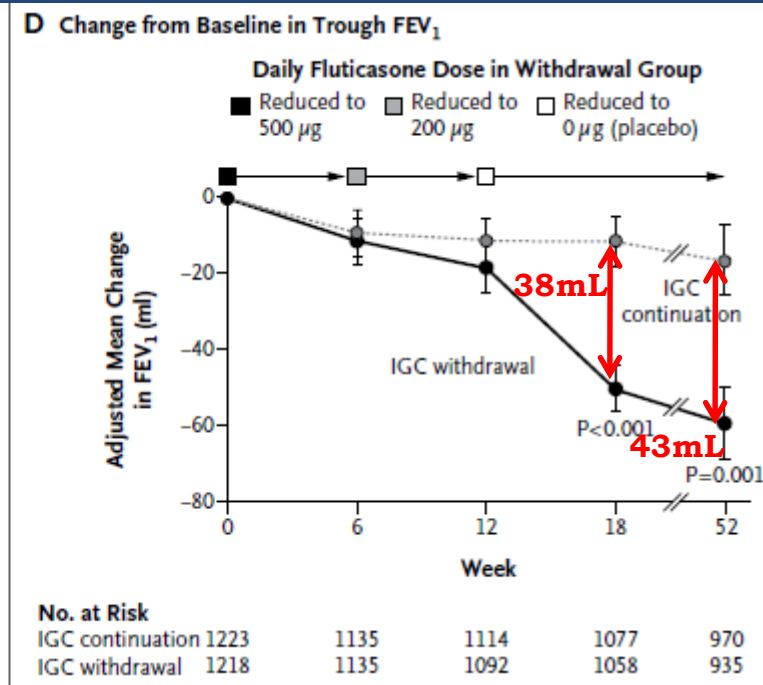
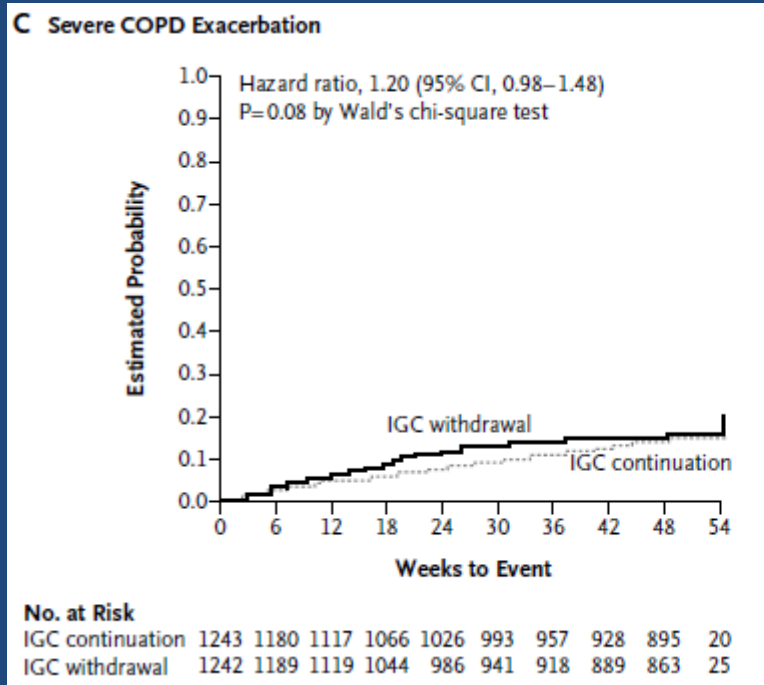
- Primary end-point: Moderate to severe exacerbation



*N Engl J Med* 2014;371(14):1285-1294

# The WISDOM Study

- Severe exacerbation / FEV<sub>1</sub> change



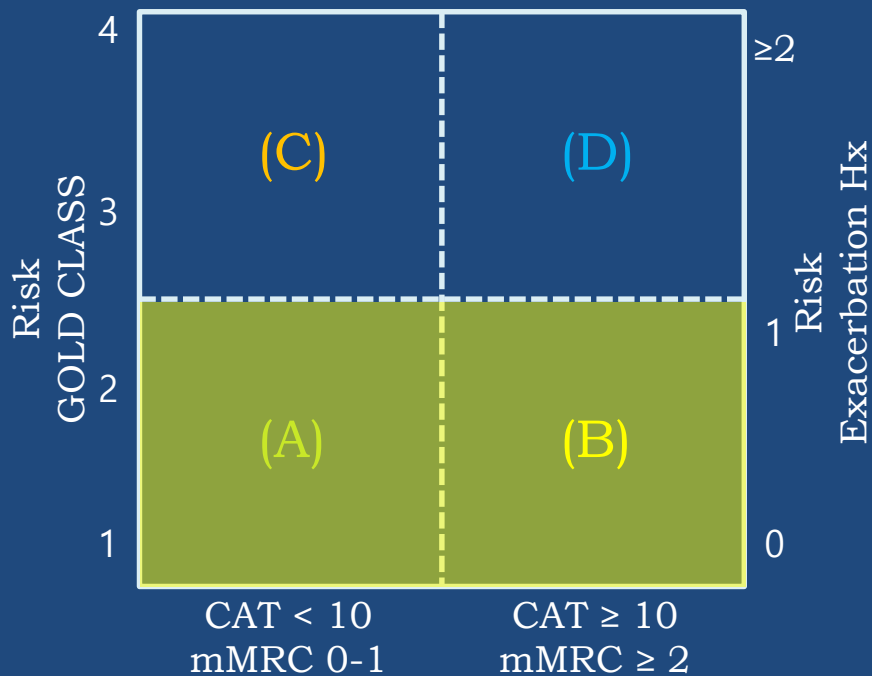
*N Engl J Med* 2014;371(14):1285-1294

# The WISDOM Study

- Limitations
  - RCT: not a real-life study
  - Discrepancies between recommendation and real-life practice
  - Some patients newly started triple therapy (6 week run-in)
  - Relatively short f-up duration (52 weeks)

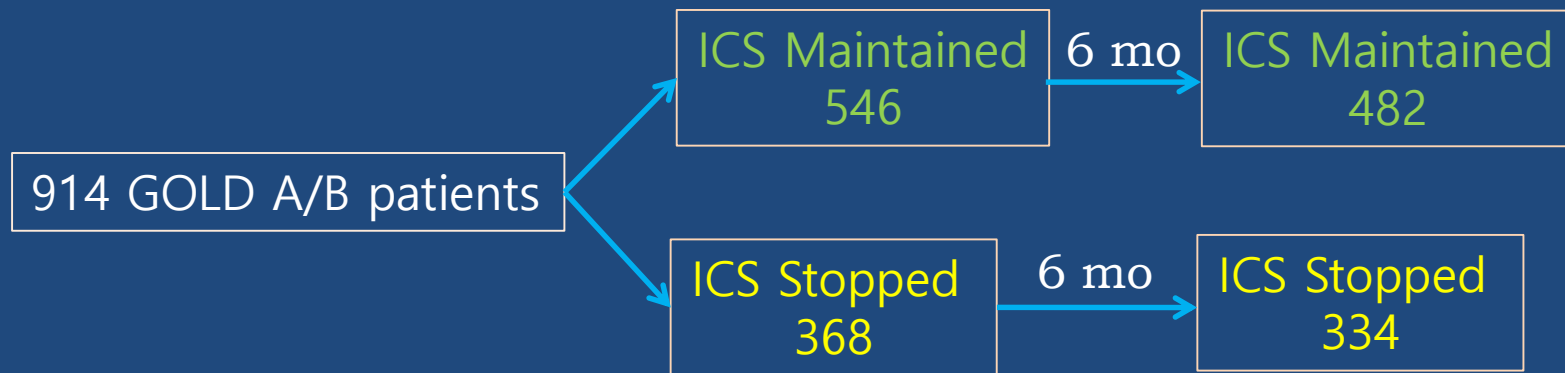
# The OPTIMO Study

- Prospective, real-life study (Not a RCT)
- Low-risk patient (GOLD A/B)
- Only some received triple therapy

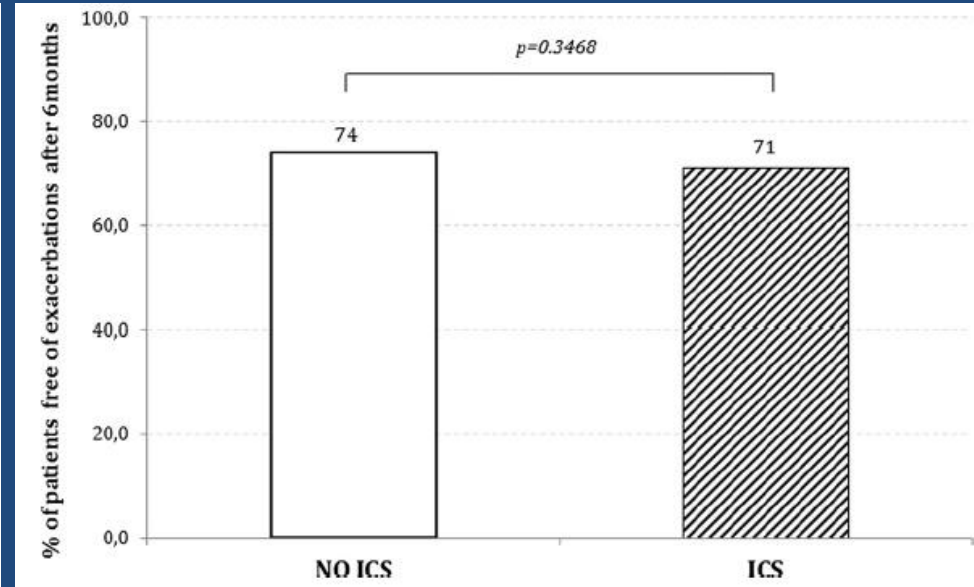
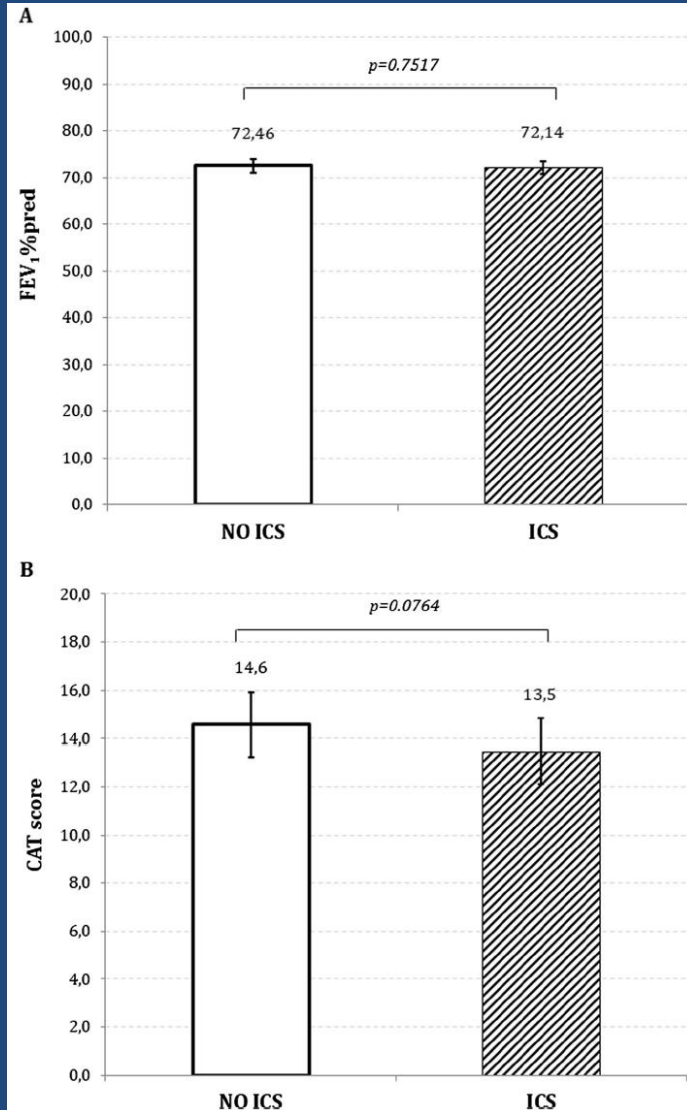


*Respir Res* 2014;15:77

# The OPTIMO Study



# The OPTIMO Study



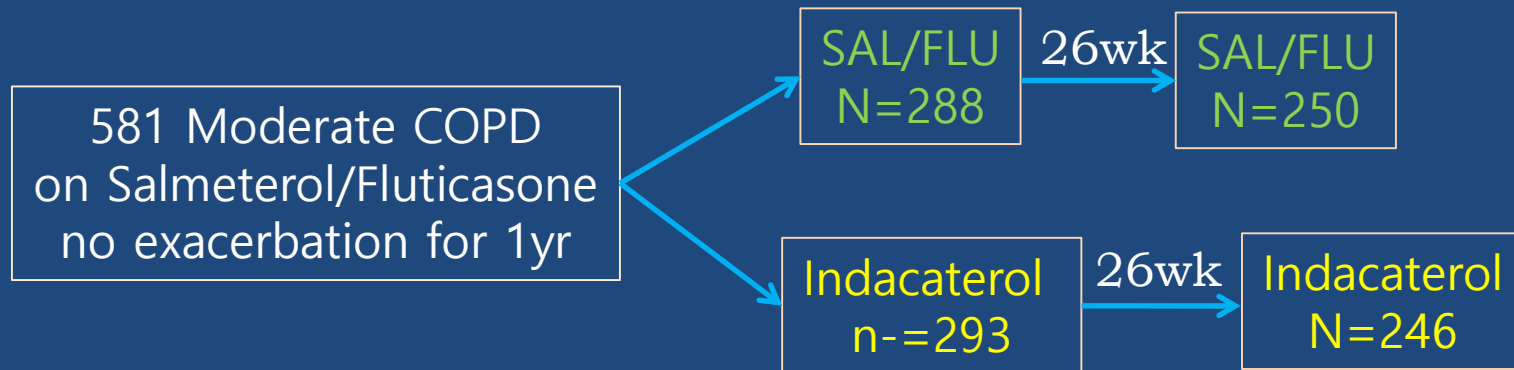
*Respir Res* 2014;15:77

# The OPTIMO Study

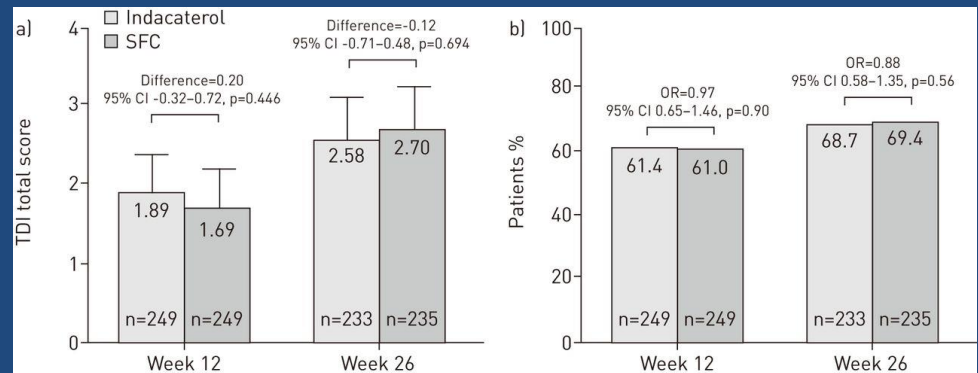
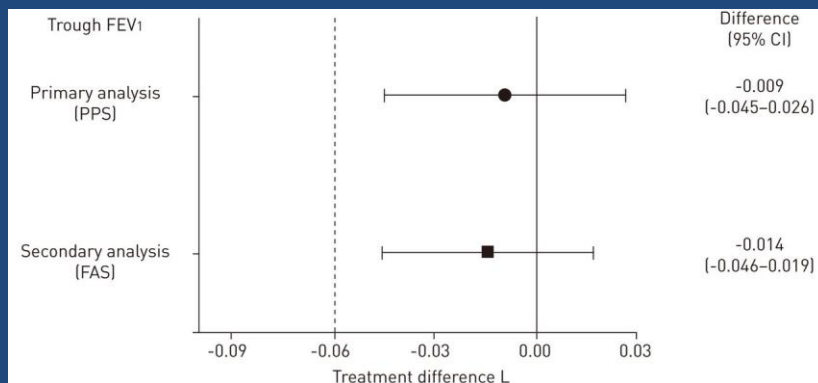
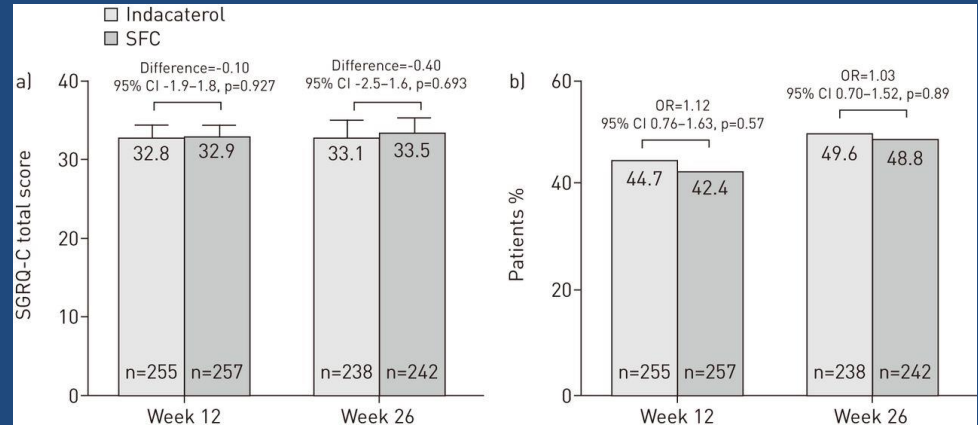
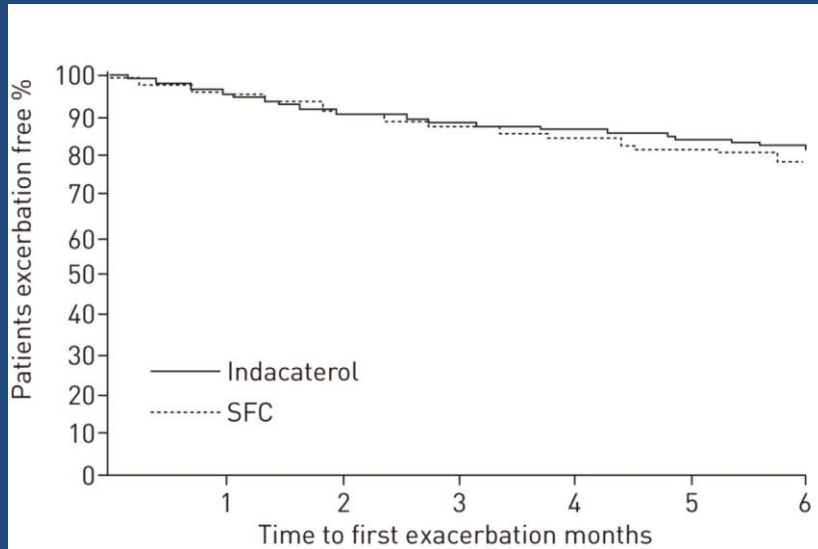
- Limitations
  - Not de-escalation of triple therapy
  - Short f-up duration
  - GOLD A/B

# The INSTEAD Study

- Moderate COPD, a parallel group RCT
- Randomized switch trial of indacaterol vs Sal/flu



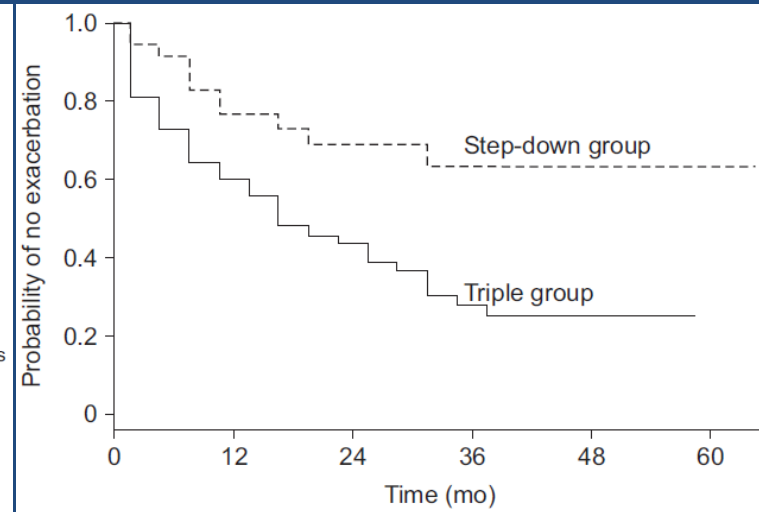
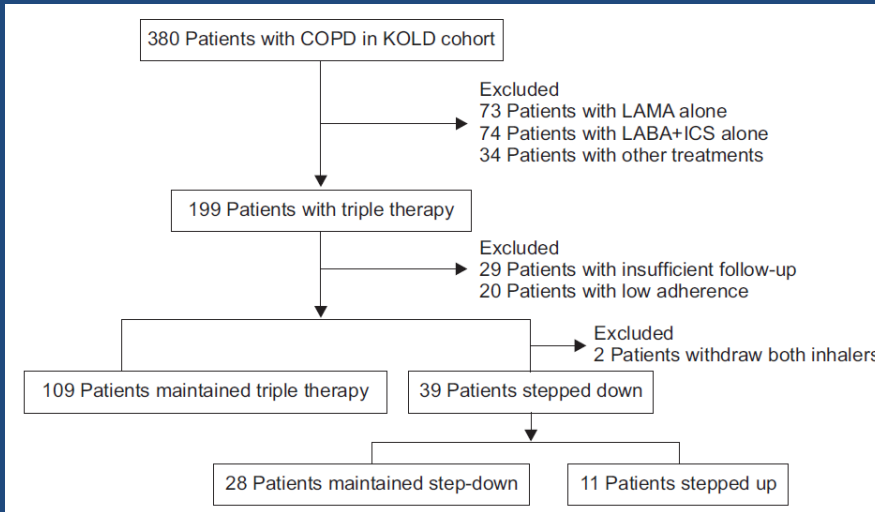
# The INSTEAD Study



# The INSTEAD Study

- Limitations
  - Not triple therapy de-escalation
  - Moderate COPD
  - Relatively short f/up duration

# The KOLD Cohort Study



Variable	Triple (n=109)		Step-down (n=39)		p-value for the change after the IT
	Just before the IT*	Just after the IT*	Just before the IT*	Just after the IT*	
Pre-bronchodilator FEV <sub>1</sub> , L	1.31±0.44	1.28±0.46	1.49±0.38	1.48±0.36	0.752
Pre-bronchodilator FEV <sub>1</sub> , % predicted	44.75±13.67	44.53±14.45	49.40±11.80	49.33±11.01	0.485
IC, % predicted	77.51±22.15	76.05±24.19	76.56±21.33	75.60±21.28	0.470
RV/TLC, % predicted	48.66±11.51	49.60±11.38	42.23±11.89	43.83±12.12	0.983
MMRC	1.86±1.14	1.94±1.09	1.87±1.11	1.72±1.05	0.146
6MWD, m	422.45±86.04	413.07±99.16	432.27±101.86	403.85±105.52	0.019
SGRQ total score	36.21±17.53	36.91±19.22	30.81±15.26	35.25±17.10	0.037
Exacerbation frequency/yr	0.78±0.99	0.72±1.00	0.36±0.58	0.28±0.65	0.266

# Contents

- Risk of ICS
- Benefit of ICS
- Withdrawal of ICS
- Cost

# Example

- Bud/Fo (320/9) + Tiotropium = 51,455 + 44,880 = **96,335/mo**
- SAL/FP (500/50) + Tiotropium = 38,898 + 44,880 = **83,778/mo**
- SAL/FP (250/50) + Aclidinium = 30,596 + 39,235 = **69,831/mo**
- Indacaterol + Aclidinium = 38,300 + 39,235 = 77,535/mo
- Vilanterol + Umeclidinium = 45,657/mo
- Indacaterol + Glycopyrronium = 42,980/mo

# A Proposal

## Step 1: review current management of COPD

- Reassess device technique and adherence
- Risk reduction: advise smoking cessation, if necessary, and ensure that immunizations are up-to-date
- Optimize function: encourage physical exercise and ensure adequate nutrition

## Step 2: evaluate the risk–benefit profile of continuing ICS therapy

- Consider patient history, symptoms (CAT, mMRC, or CCQ9), clinical features, and comorbidities
- Determine spirometry (pre- and post-bronchodilation with LABD held for  $\geq 24$  hours)
- If available, consider sputum/blood eosinophil and FeNO levels

### Is it ACOS?

History or features of asthma?

Reversibility ( $>12\%$  and 400 mL)?

Meets the criteria of the 2014 GINA/GOLD consensus statement?

### Frequent exacerbator?

$\geq 2$  moderate-to-severe exacerbations per year

$\geq 1$  hospitalizations for severe exacerbations

### Potential markers (optional):

Elevated sputum eosinophils (ie,  $\geq 3\%$ )?

Elevated blood eosinophils (ie,  $\geq 300$  cells/mm<sup>3</sup>)?

Elevated FeNO (ie,  $\geq 25$  ppb)?

Yes  
➔

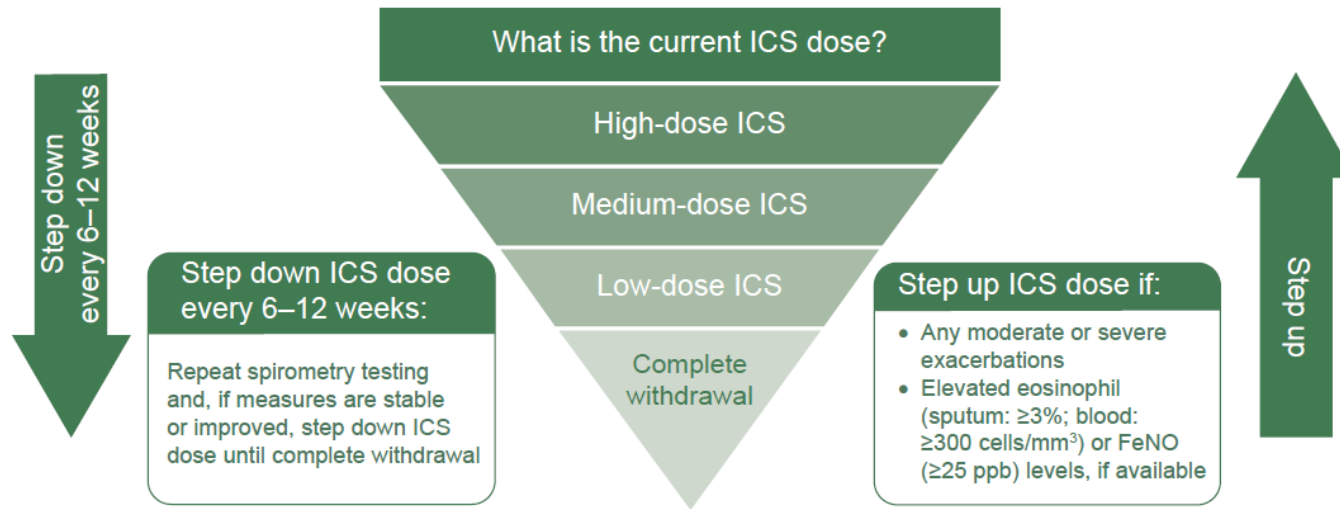
## Continue ICS therapy

Monitor for potential adverse events, particularly in high-risk patients (eg, elderly, pneumonia, tuberculosis, diabetes, osteoporosis, glaucoma/cataracts)

# A Proposal

## Step 3: stepwise withdrawal of ICS

- Initiate stepwise withdrawal of ICS depending on the patient's current ICS dose



### At each step:

- Consider optimizing bronchodilation with LABA + LAMA, if the patient is symptomatic (see Step 4)
- Exercise caution in patients with risk factors for repeat exacerbations (eg, comorbidities/extrapulmonary manifestations, chronic bronchitis, increasing age)

## Step 4: optimize bronchodilation with LABA + LAMA

- Once ICS is completely withdrawn (ie, at last step down from lowest dose of ICS available), consider optimizing bronchodilation with LABA + LAMA (ie, fixed-dose combination, if coverage is available, or separate devices), if not already done so in Step 3
- Choose a device that the patient is able to use effectively

## Step 5: follow-up

- See patient every 3 months in the first year, followed by an annual review, if COPD is stable and exacerbation-free

# Conclusion: De-escalation

Less Risk of

Pneumonia

Candidiasis

Cataracts

Tuberculosis

Osteoporosis, etc..

Less Cost

Less Compliance Issue

Doubtful role of ICS in COPD

Recent studies showed safety: WISDOM / OPTIMO / INSTEAD / ILLUMINATE, etc..