Predictors of impaired pulmonary function in people living with HIV in an urban African setting

Background: Studies have associated HIV with an increased risk of obstructive lung disease (OLD).

Objectives: We aimed to identify the predictive factors for impaired lung function in an urban, African, HIV-positive population.

Method: A cross-sectional study was performed in Johannesburg, South Africa, from July 2016 to November 2017. A questionnaire was administered and pre- and post-bronchodilator spirometry conducted. The predictors investigated included age, sex, antiretroviral treatment (ART) duration, body mass index, history of tuberculosis (TB) or pneumonia, occupational exposure, environmental exposure, smoking and symptoms of OLD (cough, wheeze, mucus and dyspnoea). Impaired lung function was defined as a forced expiratory volume in 1 second/forced vital capacity (FEV1/FVC) ratio < 0.70, or below the 20th percentile of normal.

Results: The 98 ART-naïve participants (mean age = 34.0, standard deviation [s.d.] = 8.2), 85 participants on first-line ART (mean age = 36.9, s.d. = 6.6) and 189 participants on second-line ART (mean age = 43.5, s.d. = 7.9) were predominantly female (65.6%). Of the participants, 64 (17.2%) had impaired lung function and 308 had normal lung function. Linear regression identified age ($\beta = -0.003$, $P < 0.01$), male sex ($\beta = -0.016$, $P = 0.03$) and history of TB or pneumonia ($\beta = -0.024$, $P < 0.01$) as independent predictors of a lower FEV1/FVC ratio. Following logistic regression, only a history of TB or pneumonia (odds ratio = 2.58, 95% confidence interval = 1.47–4.52) was significantly related to impaired lung function (area under the receiver operating characteristic curve = 0.64).

Conclusion: Our data show that a history of TB or pneumonia predicts impaired lung function. In order to improve timely access to spirometry, clinicians should be alert to the possibility of impaired lung function in people with a history of TB or pneumonia.

Keywords: obstructive lung disease; COPD; asthma; HIV; sub-Saharan Africa; predictors.

Background

In 2018, there were an estimated 37.9 million persons living with HIV (PLWH), of whom approximately 70% resided in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The coverage of antiretroviral treatment (ART), resulting in viral suppression, has increased in the last decades. Currently, ART coverage in adults with HIV in South Africa is 79%. Consequently, the life expectancy of PLWH has increased, and HIV is becoming a chronic disease with an increased risk of age-related comorbidities.

One of the comorbid complications noted among ART-compliant HIV patients is reduced pulmonary function, including obstructive lung disease (OLD), which comprises asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). While HIV was found to be independently associated with COPD, the relationship between HIV and asthma remains ambiguous. The burden of these chronic diseases is high and increasing; a review by Drummond and Kirk indicates an OLD prevalence of 16%–20% in PLWH. The underlying biological mechanisms are not yet entirely understood. Direct virus-related pulmonary toxicity, persistent systemic inflammation, a modified antioxidant/oxidant balance resulting in oxidative stress, and expedited immune deterioration are among the complex mechanisms that may explain the increased risk of...
OLD,15,16 Even in patients who achieve viral suppression on ART, these mechanisms may still continue, or the damage that occurred during uncontrolled HIV viraemia may be irreversible.12,13

Symptoms of OLD include cough, wheezing, dyspnoea and mucus production.5,6,7,8,13,14 These symptoms are often reported to be worse in HIV-positive individuals as compared to HIV-negative individuals.5,6,7,8,13,14 Furthermore, OLD onset is commonly earlier in this population as opposed to the HIV-negative population.15 A recent study suggests potential higher mortality resulting from airflow obstruction in COPD patients living with HIV compared to those without HIV infection.16 Undetected OLD may result in more frequent and serious exacerbations.16,17 Additionally, it increases the risk of comorbidities such as lower respiratory tract infections.16,17

In general, the failure to diagnose OLD prevents timely treatment and impacts quality of life and mortality.16,17 Obtaining reliable spirometry results requires adequate clinical resources and is time-consuming.16 Screening the vast number of HIV patients in SSA is impossible in often-overburdened healthcare systems. Hence, we aimed to identify the predictive factors for impaired lung function specific to the HIV-positive population in SSA, to allow the appropriate selection of HIV patients who would benefit most from screening for OLD by means of spirometry.

**Method**

**Study population**

The current study and analyses were embedded in a cross-sectional study situated at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, Johannesburg, South Africa, and were undertaken between July 2016 and November 2017. The study included 394 HIV-positive individuals who were recruited in the inner city of Johannesburg. They were originally enrolled from a trial comparing two older first-line ART regimens.16

Additional participants for the first-line ART group were enrolled from a trial comparing two older first-line ART regimens.20 The RCT was completed in 2016. To be included in the current study, participants had to have been on a tenofovir-containing treatment for at least 2.5 years or exceeded the 8-week ART cut-off of the ART-naïve group.

Lastly, the participants on second-line ART were recruited from a non-inferiority RCT comparing ritonavir-boosted darunavir with ritonavir-boosted lopinavir.21 This trial took place from June 2016 until June 2017 and included adult HIV-1 patients on a ritonavir-boosted lopinavir second-line ART for at least 6 months.21 To be included in the current study, participants had to attend regular follow-up visits at any time after enrolment between September 2016 and November 2017.19

The recruitment of participants from the ongoing RCTs was dependent on daily logistics such as researcher availability and waiting time. No prior selection of participants was done. Participants from the RCT that was completed in 2016 (participants on stable first-line ART) were approached by phone in a random order until the required number was met.

**Impaired lung function**

Impaired lung function was measured through spirometry with pre- and post-bronchodilator measurements. A handheld spirometer (CareFusion 2009) and Spida 5 software were used to determine the forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV1), the forced vital capacity (FVC) and the ratio between these two outcomes (FEV1/FVC ratio).22 The procedure was executed according to the guidelines of the American Thoracic Society (ATS) and the European Respiratory Society, requiring three acceptable and repeatable blows of maximum inspiration and effort, with a good start and smooth, continuous exhalation.22

Pulmonary data that did not meet the ATS criteria were considered to be insufficient and were excluded from analyses. However, if there were three post-bronchodilator curves available fulfilling the ATS criteria and only two pre-bronchodilator curves, the tests were included if the pre- and post-curves were comparable (within 150 mL difference for FEV1 and FVC), because a diagnosis of asthma was ruled out in such cases.

The Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) defines asthma in adults as an increase in FEV1 of more than 12% and 200 mL when comparing the pre- and post-bronchodilator curves.23,24,25 A diagnosis of COPD was based on a post-bronchodilator FEV1/FVC ratio below 0.7 or below the 5th percentile of the predicted value (the lower limit of normal [LLN]).24,26 Because of the small number of OLD cases according to the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD) and LLN criteria, in the current analyses we used ‘impaired lung function’ as an outcome, which was defined as a FEV1/FVC ratio below the 20th percentile, COPD or asthma. Of note, we will use ‘impaired
identified predictors were included in the multivariable analyses and model reduction using a stepwise backward approach with a cut-off P-value of 0.2. A P-value of 0.2 was chosen to prevent missing out on possible important predictors. Two-sided P-values of < 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

A receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve and area under the ROC curve (AUC) were used to determine the logistic model’s discrimination ability. Calibration of the model was assessed through a Hosmer–Lemeshow test. A non-significant outcome of this test indicates good calibration. Bootstrapping (sample n = 200) was performed to correct for overfitting of the ROC curve and coefficients.

Ethical considerations
Participants provided written informed consent. Ethical approval was obtained from the Human Research Ethics Committee of the University of the Witwatersrand (HREC number M160131).

Results
All participants were of black African descent and consisted of 98 ART-naïve participants, 85 participants on first-line ART and 189 participants on second-line ART (Table 1). Of the participants, 64 (17.2%) had impaired lung function. Of the 64 impaired lung function cases, 46 had an FEV1/FVC ratio below the 20th percentile, which included 13 COPD cases according to the GOLD and LLN 5th-percentile cut-offs and 10 cases who also met the GINA criteria for asthma. The remaining 18 cases were found solely to have asthma, as they did not have a reduced FEV1/FVC ratio below the 20th percentile and did not meet the criteria for COPD. There was no difference in age or sex between participants with or without impaired pulmonary function (P > 0.1 for both comparisons). Most impaired lung function was found in participants who were on second-line ART (62.5%). Dyspnoea was the most common symptom for both the patient group with normal lung function and those with impaired lung function (23.4% and 28.1%, respectively; P = 0.40). Other symptoms were relatively uncommon.

Following the linear regression analysis, three variables were identified as predictors of a lower FEV1/FVC ratio: age (β = −0.003, P < 0.01), male sex (β = −0.016, P = 0.03) and history of TB or pneumonia (β = −0.024, P < 0.01) (Table 2). The logistic regression analyses, after bootstrapping, included female sex and a history of TB or pneumonia as predictors of impaired lung function (odds ratio for female sex = 1.44, 95% confidence interval [CI] = 0.78–2.66; odds ratio for history of lung disease = 2.58, 95% CI = 1.47–4.52). Only a history of TB or of pneumonia remained a statistically significant predictor (P < 0.001) (Table 3). The logistic regression analyses resulted in the following diagnostic model: probability of impaired lung function = 1/(1 + exp (−2.24 + 0.37 × female sex + 1.01 × history of pneumonia or TB). The ROC curve is presented in Figure 1. After

The outcome assessment was not blinded, because of the clear cut-off values for diagnosis. Hence, there was no expected influence on the results or over-diagnosis.

Predictors
The predictor selection was based on evidence from the literature and availability in the data set.\(^{16,26-29}\) Data on the demographics, medical history and disease characteristics were collected through a standardised questionnaire, based on the World Health Organization STEPs questionnaire, World Health Survey, Medical Research Council (MRC) breathlessness scale, ATS-DLD-78-A and British MRC Respiratory Questionnaire.\(^{20,23,24,25,26,27}\) The following predictors were included: age (in years), sex, ART duration (in years), medical history of lung diseases (current or previous tuberculosis [TB] or pneumonia), occupational exposure (a job for at least one year involving dust, mining, chemicals, fumes or gases), environmental exposure (exposure to second-hand smoking inside the house during childhood or currently, or exposure to an open wood fire without a chimney for heating or cooking), smoking behaviour (never, past or current) and at least one attack of wheezing in the past 12 months). Body mass index (BMI) was calculated through the measurements obtained during physical examination according to the formula kg/m\(^2\). The predictor data were obtained before the outcome data, hence blinding of the predictor assessment for the outcome was achieved. The predictor assessment was not blinded for other predictor data.

Data analysis
The descriptive statistics were presented as the mean with standard deviation (s.d.) for normally distributed continuous data, and the categorical variables were displayed using frequencies and percentages. We performed complete case analyses, as the number of missing data was very low for all predictors and outcomes (< 5%).

The predictors were analysed in a multivariable linear and multivariable logistic regression using the FEV1/FVC ratio and impaired lung function as the respective outcomes.\(^{23,24,25,26,27}\) The predictors age, sex and BMI were included in the multivariable analyses regardless of their univariable P-values, because of their established association with pulmonary function.\(^{16,26}\)

Other candidate predictors were selected based on a P-value of < 0.2 in the univariable analysis. Subsequently, the
bootstrapping, the AUC was 0.64 (95% CI = 0.56–0.70), which indicates that the prediction rule is able to identify participants with impaired lung function at an acceptable level, although not very well. The Hosmer–Lemeshow test yielded a $P$-value of 0.97.

### Discussion

We have explored and internally validated, by means of bootstrapping, the predictors of impaired lung function in an HIV-positive population situated in urban SSA. Combining the results from the linear and logistic regressions suggested that a history of TB or pneumonia predicts impaired lung function in the current population. Male sex and increasing age were also associated with a decrease in lung function in the linear regression analyses.

Existing models of OLD focus on the added values of other diagnostic tools, such as different types of computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging, or of

| Variable | No impaired lung function | Impaired lung function |
|----------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| No. of participants ($N = 372$) | 308 82.8 | 64 17.2 |
| **Patient characteristics** | | |
| Male | 111 36.0 | 17 26.6 |
| Age (years) | - 39.2 8.8 | - 41.1 8.7 |
| Employed ($n = 370$) | 207 67.2 | 45 70.3 |
| **HIV characteristics** | | |
| Time since HIV diagnosis (years) ($n = 392$) | - 6.27 5.2 | - 6.94 5.2 |
| CD4 count (cells/mm$^3$) ($n = 349$) | - 495.3 263.5 | - 613.0 305.4 |
| Time on ART (years) ($n = 392$) | - 4.75 4.2 | - 5.45 4.3 |
| **Post-bronchodilator results** | | |
| FEV1 (L) | - 2.87 0.65 | - 2.43 0.55 |
| FVC (L) | - 3.37 0.77 | - 3.24 0.69 |
| FEV1/FVC ratio | - 0.85 0.05 | - 0.75 0.08 |
| **HIV group** | | |
| ART naive | 85 27.6 | 13 20.3 |
| First-line ART | 74 24.0 | 11 17.2 |
| Second-line ART | 149 48.4 | 40 62.5 |
| **BMI** | | |
| Underweight | 10 3.2 | 1 1.6 |
| Normal weight | 149 48.4 | 22 34.4 |
| Overweight | 68 22.1 | 24 37.5 |
| Obese | 81 26.3 | 17 26.6 |
| **Education ($n = 368$)** | | |
| Primary school or less | 39 12.7 | 9 14.1 |
| Secondary school completed | 155 50.3 | 30 46.9 |
| Matric completed | 90 29.2 | 19 29.7 |
| College or university | 21 6.8 | 5 7.8 |
| **Smoking ($n = 371$)** | | |
| Never smoker | 244 79.2 | 48 75.0 |
| Former smoker | 20 6.5 | 7 10.9 |
| Current smoker | 43 14.0 | 9 14.1 |
| **Occupational exposure ($n = 365$)** | | |
| Mining work for ≥ 1 year | 2 0.6 | 1 1.6 |
| Dusty job for ≥ 1 year | 9 2.9 | 2 3.1 |
| Exposure to gas, chemical fumes or pesticides in work for ≥ 1 year | 6 1.9 | 3 4.7 |
| **Environmental exposure** | | |
| Second-hand smoking at baseline ($n = 365$) | 48 15.6 | 8 12.5 |
| Second-hand smoking during childhood ($n = 367$) | 42 13.6 | 5 7.8 |
| Open fire (heating) stove without chimney ($n = 368$) | 3 1.0 | 0 0.0 |
| **Respiratory illnesses** | | |
| Pneumonia in the past ($n = 369$) | 18 5.8 | 13 20.3 |
| Tuberculosis ever ($n = 370$) | 79 25.6 | 30 46.9 |
| **Physical symptoms** | | |
| Chronic cough | 6 1.9 | 0 0.0 |
| Bringing up mucus ($n = 368$) | 11 3.6 | 3 4.7 |
| Wheezing ($n = 390$) | 5 1.6 | 2 3.1 |
| MRC scale of ≥ 2 ($n = 369$) | 72 23.4 | 18 28.1 |

Note: Underweight, BMI < 18.5; normal weight, BMI = 18.5–24.99; overweight, BMI = 25.0–29.99; obese, BMI ≥ 30.

ART, antiretroviral therapy; BMI, body mass index; MRC, Medical Research Council; s.d., standard deviation; FEV1, forced expiratory volume in 1 second; FVC, forced vital capacity.

http://www.sajhivmed.org.za Open Access
capnography to enable an earlier or more reliable diagnosis. Other models aim to predict the prognosis or exacerbations of OLD. However, none of these models focused on the diagnostic value of easily collected predictors, and none of the models was developed in an HIV-positive, SSA population. Our diagnostic model has only modest capacity to distinguish between normal lung function and impaired lung function. Hence, as our model is the first to use readily available clinical data, it establishes the foundation for further development of a diagnostic model of OLD in the current population.

Our findings on individual predictors are in line with previous research that has been conducted in HIV-positive populations in diverse countries. Increasing age, a history of TB, and prior bacterial or *Pneumocystis* pneumonia have been associated with COPD, asthma and lower FEV1/FVC ratios in multiple studies. Most evidence has been generated by research conducted in high-income countries. Only a limited number of studies conducted in SSA have analysed the association between HIV and impaired lung function. The factors associated with impaired lung function in the SSA population were older age and a history of TB. Sex, viral load, smoking status and ART duration have not been conclusively identified as impaired lung function predictors. Furthermore, a systematic review by Finney et al. found that most of the studies conducted in SSA focus on the prevalence of impaired lung function rather than identifying the predictors. Most studies aiming to identify the predictors had a limited sample size or a low prevalence of impaired lung function, so the robustness of the findings has to be confirmed in other research.

A vast body of research has established male sex as a risk factor for airflow obstruction. This association was confirmed through our linear regression analyses. However, a significant association between sex and impaired lung function was not found in the logistic regression. This is likely the result of limited statistical power in the dichotomous analysis. Another possible explanation is the inclusion of asthma cases in the impaired lung function outcome. Previous studies conducted in HIV-positive

### TABLE 2: Univariable and multivariable associations with the ratio of forced expiratory volume in 1 second to forced vital capacity.

| Variable                  | Univariable | Multivariable |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|
|                           | β           | s.e. | P      | β           | s.e. | P      |
| Constant                  |             |      |        | 0.966       |      |        |
| Age (years)               | -0.003      | 0.00 | < 0.01 | -0.003      | 0.00 | < 0.01 |
| Sex (male)                | -0.017      | 0.01 | 0.02   | -0.016      | 0.01 | 0.03   |
| BMI                       | -0.001      | 0.25 | 0.00   | 0.00        | 0.64 |        |
| Environmental exposure    | 0.004       | 0.62 |        |             |      |        |
| Occupational exposure     | 0.007       | 0.63 |        |             |      |        |
| History of lung disease   | -0.029      | 0.01 | < 0.01 | -0.024      | 0.01 | < 0.01 |
| (TB, pneumonia)           |             |      |        |             |      |        |
| ART duration (years)      | -0.003      | 0.00 | < 0.01 | -0.002      | 0.00 | 0.07   |
| At least one OLD symptom  | -0.019      | 0.01 | 0.01   | -0.012      | 0.01 | 0.10   |
| Smoking status            |             |      |        |             |      |        |
| Never                     | 0.000       |      |        |             |      |        |
| Past                      | -0.012      | 0.37 |        |             |      |        |
| Current                   | -0.007      | 0.43 |        |             |      |        |

Note: N = 372. Variables with P-values in bold in the univariable regression were considered for multivariable regression; those in bold for the multivariable regression were considered statistically significant.

### TABLE 3: Univariable and multivariable associations with impaired lung function.

| Variable                  | Univariable | Multivariable |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|
|                           | Odds ratio  | 95% CI        | P          | Odds ratio  | 95% CI        | P          |
| Constant                  | -           | -             | -          | 0.11        | -             | -          |
| Age (years)               | 1.03        | 0.99–1.06     | 0.11       | -           | -             | -          |
| Sex (female)              | 1.56        | 0.85–2.84     | 0.15       | 1.44        | 0.78–2.66     | 0.24       |
| BMI                       | 1.03        | 0.99–1.08     | 0.16       | -           | -             | -          |
| Environmental exposure    | 0.71        | 0.35–1.42     | 0.33       | -           | -             | -          |
| Occupational exposure     | 0.84        | 0.26–2.96     | 0.79       | -           | -             | -          |
| History of lung disease   | 2.81        | 1.62–4.87     | < 0.01     | 2.74        | 1.58–4.76     | < 0.01     |
| (TB, pneumonia)           |             |              |            |             |              |            |
| ART duration (months)     | 1.04        | 0.98–1.11     | 0.23       | -           | -             | -          |
| At least one OLD symptom  | 1.30        | 0.73–2.32     | 0.37       | -           | -             | -          |
| Smoking status            |             |              |            |             |              |            |
| Never (reference)         | 1.00        | -             | -          | -           | -             | -          |
| Past                      | 0.94        | 0.43–2.06     | 0.88       | -           | -             | -          |
| Current                   | 1.67        | 0.55–5.13     | 0.37       | -           | -             | -          |

Note: The multivariable figures are estimated after internal validation and shrinkage (n = 372; number of events = 64). Variables with P-values in bold in the univariable regression were considered for multivariable regression; those in bold for the multivariable regression were considered statistically significant.

95% CI, 95% confidence interval; TB, tuberculosis; BMI, body mass index; ART, antiretroviral treatment; OLD, obstructive lung disease.
populations have found asthma patients to be more frequently female.\textsuperscript{30,32} The asthma cases were not included in the linear regression, as these analyses focused on the FEV1/FVC ratio. Hence, the influence of male sex on the impaired lung function outcome may have been counterbalanced by the association between female sex and asthma.

Strikingly, smoking was not related to impaired lung function, while a vast body of previous research has established smoking as a strong predictor of and risk factor for OLD in PLWH.\textsuperscript{44,45,52,53,54} Nevertheless, two studies analysing HIV-infected populations have found similar results as those currently reported.\textsuperscript{55} This may be explained by inconsistent smoking behaviour as a result of insufficient finances.\textsuperscript{56,57} Furthermore, smoking behaviour is usually assessed through inhaled smoking, while in the current population, chewing tobacco and the use of snuff are common as well.\textsuperscript{56,57} Hence, there may be unmeasured smoking behaviour that is not being taken into account. Furthermore, it has been suggested that the pathogenesis of OLD may be independent of smoking behaviour in the HIV-positive population, attributable to a state of chronic inflammation, but evidence is lacking.\textsuperscript{58}

The current study has not identified ART duration as a predictive factor of impaired lung function. Research has not reached a consensus regarding the effect of ART on OLD.\textsuperscript{44,45} Some evidence has identified ART as an independent factor for airway obstruction in HIV patients.\textsuperscript{44,45} The underlying biological mechanism may be related to immune reconstruction inflammatory syndrome or the initiation of pulmonary autoimmunity.\textsuperscript{59} Other studies have found no significant effect of ART on OLD. Reasons for these conflicting findings may be related to the HIV stage and time of ART initiation, as well as differences in the study population.\textsuperscript{30,59}

This study has several strengths. Our model is based on comprehensive and detailed data from an HIV-positive population in an urban SSA setting and is the first to use readily available clinical data. Missing data were limited, and standardised methods of assessment were used to obtain the predictors and outcome data. Our study responds to the need for identifying the predictive factors for impaired lung function as called for in recent articles.\textsuperscript{30,53,58} Limitations include that the current data set had too few COPD and asthma cases according to the GINA, GOLD and LLN criteria to develop a model for OLD. Hence, we used a FEV1/FVC ratio below the 20th percentile, which inherently leads to over-diagnosis of clinical OLD and results in limited generalisability. A larger data set with more clinical OLD cases would allow for verification of the identified predictors. The AUC indicates that the current model misses other important predictors that are necessary to improve the model performance. Assessment of smoking may have misrepresented current smoking behaviour, as no information on chewing tobacco was collected. Additionally, the study population was recruited from RCTs and might therefore not represent the general HIV-positive population in Johannesburg. However, we do not foresee bias in the current study, as RCT participation is attractive to the general population in Johannesburg because of the convenient logistics (no long queues) and the quality of medical services involved.

**Conclusion**

A history of TB or pneumonia predicted impaired lung function in the current population. Male sex and increasing age in years were associated with a decrease in lung function. The model does not yet allow adequate risk stratification to guide clinical management, but clinicians should be aware of possible impaired lung function in HIV-positive patients with a history of TB or pneumonia and consider early spirometry testing for this group. More research is needed to confirm the identified predictors and to add others in order to develop a model that is specific and sensitive enough to rule out or rule in OLD.

**Acknowledgements**

The authors acknowledge Boehringer Ingelheim (the Netherlands) for lending the spirometry equipment. The authors thank J.W. van den Bos, senior advisor at Boehringer Ingelheim, for his practical support and advice regarding the use of the spirometry software. In addition, the authors thank PT-Medical B.V. for sponsoring the disposable spirometry filters.

**Competing interests**

The authors declare that they have no financial or personal relationships that may have inappropriately influenced them in writing this article.

**Authors’ contributions**

A.G.V. was responsible for the study design and coordination of data collection. S.E.V.R. performed the data analyses and was responsible for the interpretation of results under the supervision of A.G.V. S.E.V.R. and A.G.V wrote the article. K.K.-G., R.E.B., D.E.G., C.F., E.S., S.L.S., F.D.R. and W.D.F.V. critically revised the article. All authors gave final approval for the article to be published.

**Funding information**

PT-Medical B.V. offered the spirometry filters with a discount. Boehringer Ingelheim, the Netherlands, sponsored the purchase of the spirometry filters with a once-off grant of €1700.00 (euro). None of the companies was involved in the protocol development, conduct of the study, analysis of the data or writing of the report.

**Data availability**

The authors confirm that the data supporting the findings of this study are available within the article.
23. Global Initiative for Asthma. Global strategy for asthma management and prevention, 2019 [homepage on the Internet]. [cited 2019 Nov 20]. Available from: https://www.ginasthma.org/gina-reports/

24. Chung KF, Wenzel SE, Brozek JL, et al. International ERS/ATS guidelines on definition, evaluation and treatment of severe asthma. Eur Respir J. 2019;53(4):152–177. https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.01289-2018

25. Reddell HK, Taylor DR, Bateman ED, et al. An Official American Thoracic Society/European Respiratory Society Statement: Asthma Control and Exacerbations: Standardizing endpoints for clinical asthma trials and clinical practice. Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2009;180(1):59–99. https://doi.org/10.1164/rccm.200801-060507

26. Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease. Global Strategy for the diagnosis, management and prevention of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, 2020 [homepage on the Internet]. [cited 2019 Nov 20]. Available from: https://goldcopd.org/gold-reports/

27. Quanjer P, Stanojevic S, Cole T, et al. Multi-ethnic reference values for spirometry for the 3–95 year age range. The glazier lung function 2012 equations. Eur Respir J. 2012;40(6):1324–1344. https://doi.org/10.1183/09031936.00038112

28. Young AL, Braegman FS, Rangelov, et al. Disease progression modelling in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2020;193(1):294–302. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajrccm.201908-1600DC

29. Polverino F, Hyengar EB, Gupta N, Willmering M, Olin T, Abman SH. Lung MRI as a potential complementary diagnostic tool for early COPD. AM J Med. 2020;138(6):75–76. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amjmed.2019.12.009

30. Jancsik L, Turvesson E, Ainaert J, Bjermer L, Stenius B. The efficiency index (EFFi), based on volumetric capnography, may allow for simple diagnosis and grading of COPD. Int J Chron Obstruct Pulmon Dis. 2018;13:2038–2039. https://doi. org/10.2147/IJCOPD.S153701

31. Bellou V, Belaisis L, Konstantinidis AK, Tzoulaki I, Evangelou E. Prognostic models for outcome prediction in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: Systematic review and critical appraisal. BMJ. 2019;367:l3538. https://doi. org/10.1136/bmj.l3538

32. World Health Organisation. WHO STEPS instrument (core and expanded) [homepage on the Internet]. Version 3.2. [cited 2019 Oct 5]. Available from: http://www.who.int/nchs/stepts/steps/instrument/en/

33. World Health Organization. Evidence and information for policy [homepage on the Internet]. World Health Survey 2002, Individual Questionnaire, Rotation A. [cited 2019 Nov 20]. Available from: http://www.who.int/healthinfo/survey/wholongindividuala.pdf

34. World Health Organization [homepage on the Internet]. World Health Survey 2002. Short questionnaire Rotation-A. [cited 2019 Oct 5]. Available from: https://www.who.int/healthinfo/survey/wholongindividuala.pdf

35. Stenton C. The MRC breathlessness scale. Occup Med (Lond). 2008;58(3):226–227. https://doi.org/10.1093/occmed/kqm162

36. Ferry B. Epidemiology standardization project (American Thoracic Sociaty). Am Rev Respir Dis. 1978;118:1–120.

37. Cotes JE. Medical Research Council Questionnaire on respiratory symptoms. Lancet. 1987;2:1028. https://doi.org/10.1016/0140-6736(79)92593-1

38. Drummond MB, Huang L, Diaz PT, et al. Factors associated with abnormal spirometry among HIV-infected individuals. AIDS. 2015;29(13):2041–2050. https://doi.org/10.1097/QAD.0000000000001701

39. Van Gernert F, Kriega B, Chavannes N, Kamy M, Luiz M, Musigai P. Prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and associated risk factors in Uganda (FRESH AIR Uganda): A prospective cross-sectional observational study. Lancet Glob Health. 2018;6(12):e1243–e1251. https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(18)30399-7

40. Fitzpatrick ME, Kunsiki KM, Morris A. Pulmonary disease in HIV-infected adults in the combination antiretroviral therapy era. Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2014;190(6):632–640. https://doi.org/10.1164/rccm.201407-1286OC

41. Makinson A, Hayat M, Eymard-Duvernay S, et al. HIV associated with respiratory obstruction: A matched controlled study. AIDS. 2018;32(2):227–232. https://doi.org/10.1097/QAD.0000000000001691

42. Sampère G, Guerrero D, López P, et al. Association of progressive lung function abnormalities in HIV-infected patients treated with antiretroviral therapy. HIV Med. 2014;15(3):203–210. https://doi.org/10.1111/hiv.12117

43. Guiguo MR, George MP, Kessinger CJ, et al. Pulmonary function abnormalities in HIV-infected patients during the current antiretroviral therapy era. Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2010;182(6):790–796. https://doi.org/10.1164/rccm.200912-1885OC

44. George MP, Kannan M, Huang L, Schraub FC, Morris A. Respiratory symptoms and airway obstruction in HIV-infected subjects in the HAART era. PLoS One. 2009;4:e6328. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0006328

45. Risso K, Guillouet-de-Salvador F, Valerio L, et al. COPD in HIV-infected patients: CDA cell count highly correlated. PLoS One. 2017;12:e0169359. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0169359

46. Li Y, Nourie SM, Kessinger C, et al. Factors associated with progression of lung function abnormalities in HIV-infected individuals. J Acquire Immun Defic Syndr. 2018;79(4):501–509. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acadi.201801840

47. Finney LJ, Feary JR, Leonardi-Bee J, Gordo F, Chinn D. Prevalence of and risk factors for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in sub-Saharan Africa: A systematic review. Int J Tuberc Lung Dis. 2019;23(1):583–599. https://doi.org/10.5588/ijtld.12.0619

48. North CM, Allen JG, Okello S, et al. HIV infection, pulmonary tuberculosis, and COPD in rural Uganda. A cross-sectional study. Lung. 2018;196(1):49–57. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00408-017-0808-0
50. Gupte AN, Wong ML, Msandiwa R, et al. Factors associated with pulmonary impairment in HIV-infected South African adults. PLoS One. 2017;12(9):e0184530. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0184530

51. Gingo MR, Balasubramani GK, Rice TB, et al. Pulmonary symptoms and diagnoses are associated with HIV in the MACS and WIHS cohorts. BMC Pulm Med. 2014;14:75. https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2466-14-75

52. Crothers K, Butt AA, Gibert CL, Rodriguez-Barradas MC, Crystal S, Justice AC. Veterans Aging Cohort 5 Project Team. Increased COPD among HIV-positive compared to HIV-negative veterans. Chest. 2006;130(5):1326–1333. https://doi.org/10.1378/chest.130.5.1326

53. Nakamura H, Tateyama M, Tasato D, et al. The prevalence of airway obstruction among Japanese HIV-positive male patients compared with general population; a case-control study of single center analysis. J Infect Chemother. 2014;20(6):361–364. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jiac.2014.02.001

54. Attia EF, Akgün KM, Wongtrakool C, et al. Increased risk of radiographic emphysema in HIV is associated with elevated soluble CD14 and nadir CD4. Chest. 2014;146(6):1543–1553. https://doi.org/10.1378/chest.14-0543

55. Ronit A, Lundgren J, Afzal S, et al. Airflow limitation in people living with HIV and matched uninfected controls. Thorax. 2018;73(5):431–438. https://doi.org/10.1136/thoraxjnl-2017-211079

56. Pampel F. Tobacco use in sub-Saharan Africa: Estimates from the demographic health surveys. Soc Sci Med. 2008;66(8):1772–1783. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.soscimed.2007.12.003

57. Sreeramareddy CT, Harper S, Ernstsen L. Educational and wealth inequalities in tobacco use among men and women in 54 low-income and middle-income countries. Tob Control. 2018;27(1):26–34. https://doi.org/10.1136/tobaccocontrol-2016-053266

58. Singhvi D, Bon J, Morris A. Obstructive lung disease in HIV-phenotypes and pathogenesis. Curr HIV/AIDS Rep. 2019;16(4):359–369. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11904-019-00456-3

59. MacDonald DM, Melzer AC, Collins G, et al. Smoking and accelerated lung function decline in HIV-positive individuals: A secondary analysis of the START pulmonary substudy. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 2018;79(3):e85–e89. https://doi.org/10.1097/QAI.0000000000001797