

Online Supplement 2: Questionnaire

Respiratory symptoms

In this paper, self-reported respiratory symptoms were defined as an affirmative answer to any of the following questionnaire items: “Do you cough even when you do not have a common cold?”, “Do you cough up phlegm, or experience mucus in your chest that you have trouble clearing, even when you do not suffer from a common cold?” “Do you experience wheezing or whistling in your lungs?”, “Do you experience shortness of breath when hurrying on level ground or walking up a slight incline?”, or “Have you ever suffered from shortness of breath severe enough to disturb your daily activities, or to force you to stay home from work?”

Comorbidities

The subjects were given the following questions regarding their comorbidities.

Which of the following illnesses has a medical doctor diagnosed on you, or have been surgically treated for? (several alternatives can be chosen)

- Myocardiac infarct/a thrombus in the heart*
- Angina pectoris*
- Atrial fibrillation*
- Heart failure*
- Valvular heart disease*
- A bypass-operation or balloon dilatation of the coronary arteries*
- A procedure for treating stenosis caused by peripheral artery disease*
- A procedure for aortic aneurysm*
- Stroke/brain infarct/bleeding in the brain*
- High blood pressure
- High blood lipids / high cholesterol
- Diabetes
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Asthma

- Tuberculosis
- Other lung disease
- Obstructive sleep apnea
- Gluten intolerance/coeliac disease
- Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis
- Rheumatic disease
- Cancer
- None of the above

Cardiovascular disease other than hypertension is denoted by *