

PA-17

Derivation and Definitions of Clinical Study Variables for Multimorbidity in Patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD): A Modified Delphi Study

Mohit Bhutani¹, Tobin Joseph²⁻⁴, Amy Couper^{5,6}, Rachel Pullen⁵, Ramesh Nadarajah²⁻⁴, Ayodya Samarawickrama⁶, Luis Alves^{7,8}, Maria Felicia Montero-Arias^{9,10}, Riyad Al-Lehebi¹¹⁻¹², David D Berg¹³, Nathaniel M Hawkins¹⁴, John R Hurst¹⁵, Christine R Jenkins¹⁶, Alan Kaplan^{5,17}, Janwillem WH Kocks^{5,18-20}, Konstantinos Kostikas^{5,21}, Carolyn S.P Lam²², Therese S Lapperre^{23,24}, Chin Kook Rhee²⁵, Naveed Sattar²⁶, Daiana Stolz²⁷, Gary Tse^{28,29}, Tonya Winders³⁰, David Price^{5,6}, and Chris P Gale²⁻⁴ on behalf of the International Cardiovascular and Respiratory Alliance

Introduction

- Standardized variables and their definitions are key to understanding clinical care and study delivery in COPD.¹
- Existing data variables for COPD are not comprehensive for multimorbidity and have limited adoption.²

Aim

- To provide an internationally designed and endorsed suite of clinical variables for use in clinical care and research for multimorbidity in COPD.

Methods

- We formed an executive committee (EC), a steering committee (SC) and an international consensus group (ICG).
- Candidate variables were identified by a literature search overseen by the EC.
- We followed a modified Delphi process of anonymous rounds of online voting for the SC, with consensus thresholds, set at 60% agreement and minimum response rate 75% for inclusion/ exclusion of variables.
- Definitions over seen by the EC were developed, and consensus obtained through online SC voting.
- The ICG, EC and SC reviewed and voted on the final set of variables and definitions.

Results

- The SC (including the EC) comprised 23 individuals representing 15 countries, of whom 70% were pulmonologists.
- The systematic review yielded 131 articles, generated 476 candidate variables and the EC removed 86. The SC refined the list to 281 variables across:
 - 9 domains: demographics, COPD type, comorbidities, tests, discharge details, inpatient management, medication, presentation details and outcomes (Figure 1), and
 - 3 clinical settings: inpatient, specialist ambulatory, primary care.
- In the final round, the wider ICG group of 146 members were invited to vote.
 - 105 voted, representing 39 countries (Figure 2), of whom 62.9% were from respiratory disciplines.

Figure 1: Number of variables per domain after SC voting

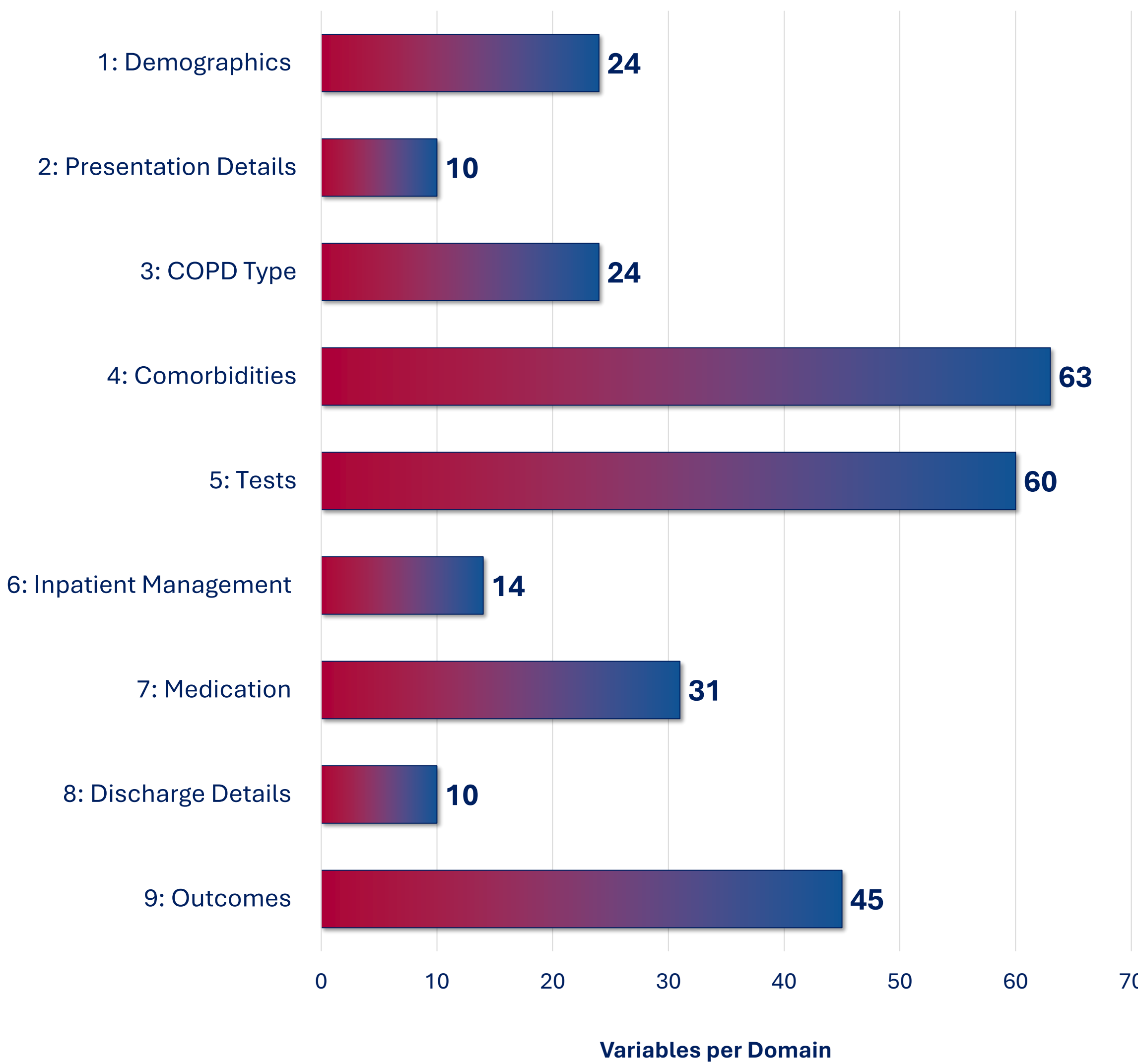
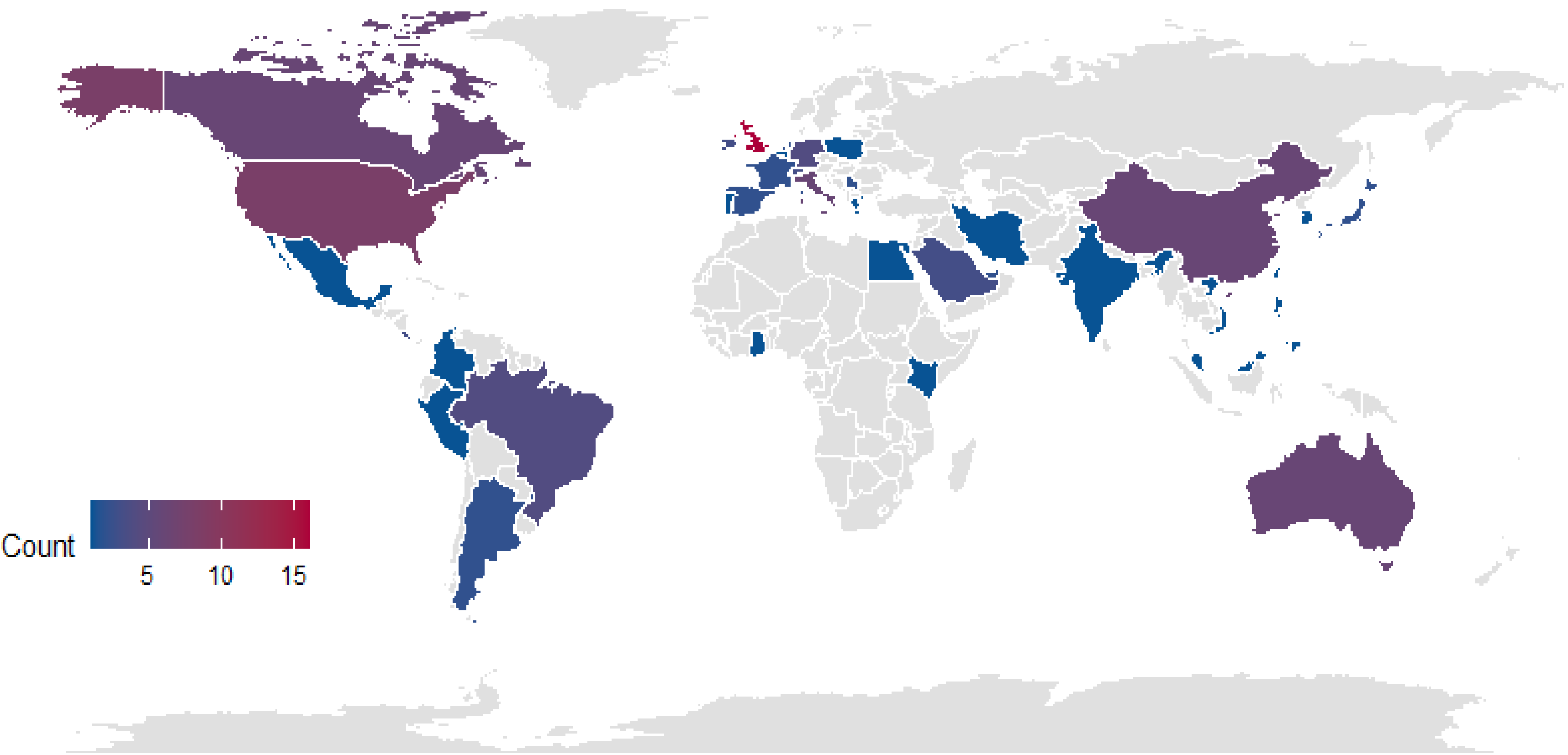


Figure 2: Geographic distribution of the voting members participating in the final Delphi round



Conclusion

- Through international consensus, a suite of data variables and their definitions have been developed for multimorbidity in COPD that may be used for clinical care and studies.

References

1) Joseph T, Bhutani M, Couper A, et al. *Pragmat Obs Res* 2025;16:243-51.
2) Gale CP, Hurst JR, Hawkins NM, et al. *Eur J Prev Cardiol* 2025.

Disclosures

MB has received speaker and consultancy fees from AZ, GSK, Pfizer, Takeda, Sanofi and Roche



Protocol Paper



E-Poster



ICRA Website

