Additional file 3. The clusters and their defining variables among 444 subjects with current cough living in the town Kuopio. The ten most important variables are expressed, in order of importance. The order was defined by the p value obtained by Mann-Whitney U test or chi-square test between the clusters. The values are expressed by either means (standard deviations) or percentages, unless stated otherwise.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Order** | **Variable** | **Cluster A****N = 278** | **Cluster B****N = 166** | **P value** |
| 1 | Trigger sum | 2.60 (2.13) | 6.71 (2.22) | 1.45 e-46 |
| 2 | Number of cough background disorders | 0.30 (0.51) | 1.28 (0.75) | 4.97 e-38 |
| 3 | Idiopathic cough | 72.5 % | 11.4 % | 7.55 e-34 |
| 4 | LCQ physical domain | 5.36 (0.71) | 4.28 (0.84) | 2.53 e-33 |
| 5 | LCQ question 9 1 | 6.08 (1.03) | 4.32 (1.53) | 4.63 e-32 |
| 6 | Dyspnea with wheezing | 13.7 % | 65.7 % | 3.34 e-30 |
| 7 | LCQ total score | 16.5 (2.42) | 13.4 (2.81) | 1.03 e-27 |
| 8 | Strong paints or fumes as a cough trigger | 19.4 % | 66.9 % | 6.17 e-25 |
| 9 | Current asthma | 3.2 % | 44.0 % | 2.72 e-24 |
| 10 | Current medication for asthma | 12.6 % | 60.2 % | 3.35 e-23 |

1 Leicester Cough Questionnaire question number 9: “In the last 2 weeks, exposure to paints or fumes has made me cough” with a 7-step scale from 1 = all of the time to 7 = none of the time.