Additional file 4: Aetiologies of subacute and chronic cough

Studies by aetiolgies	k	N	Percentage (%) 95% CI
ACE-inhibitor induced Nantha 2014 not applicable	14	117 —	12	.0 [6.9; 19.6]
Acute bronchitis / bron Nantha 2014 not applicable	nchi 11	olitis 117 —	9	.4 [5.0; 16.6]
Asthma Munyati 2005 Nantha 2014 $I^2 = 0\%, \chi_1^2 = 0.01 (p = 0.9)$	26 5 (2)	544 + 117 -		.8 [3.2; 7.0] .3 [1.6; 10.2]
COPD Nantha 2014 not applicable	8	117 —	6	.8 [3.2; 13.4]
Cryptococcosis Munyati 2005 not applicable	5	544 +	0	.9 [0.3; 2.3]
Fibrotic lung disease Munyati 2005 not applicable	34	544 +	6	.2 [4.4; 8.7]
GERD Nantha 2014 not applicable	7	117 —	6	.0 [2.6; 12.4]
Heart failure Munyati 2005 Nantha 2014 $I^2 = 64\%, \chi_1^2 = 2.81 (p = 0.00)$	15 7 .09)	544 + 117 →		.8 [1.6; 4.6] .0 [2.6; 12.4]
HIV-associated Munyati 2005 not applicable	154	544	+ 83	.5 [80.0; 86.4]
Lower respiratory trace Munyati 2005 not applicable		ection 544	+ 32	.7 [28.8; 36.9]
Pertussis Stefanoff 2014 * 2 not applicable	288	3684 +	7	.8 [7.0; 8.7]
Pneumocystis pneumo Munyati 2005 not applicable		infection 544 +	1	.5 [0.7; 3.0]
Pneumonia Munyati 2005 Nantha 2014 $l^2 = 95\%, \chi_1^2 = 22.2 (p < 0.00)$	87 3 .01)	544 + 117 +		.0 [13.1; 19.4] .6 [0.7; 7.9]
Post infectious cough Nantha 2014 not applicable	42	117	 35	.9 [27.4; 45.3]
Suspected malignancy Munyati 2005 Nantha 2014 $l^2 = 0\%, \chi_1^2 = 0.78 (p = 0.3)$	5 2	544 + 117 —		.9 [0.3; 2.3] .7 [0.3; 6.7]
Tuberculosis Munyati 2005 Nantha 2014 $l^2 = 99\%, \chi_1^2 = 82.06 (p < 6)$	234 7 0.01)	544 117 →		.0 [38.8; 47.3] .0 [2.6; 12.4]
Upper airway cough sy Nantha 2014 not applicable	/ndr 11	ome 117 → 0 20		.4 [5.0; 16.6]

Figure 1: Forest plot: prevalences of selected aetiologies, referring to adult primary care patients in consultation for a subacute or chronic cough, using the denominator patients. * = Stefanoff 2014 included patients of all age groups, ACE = Angiotensin-converting-enzyme, CI = confidence interval, COPD = Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, GERD = Gastroesophageal reflux disease, k = number of patients with the respective aetiology, N = total number of patients in consultation for a cough.