This study showed that use of the recently recommended race-neutral reference equations and z score-based severity thresholds seems to reclassify COPD disease severity accurately among a similar proportion of White and Black patients.

How Does the Transition From Race-Specific to Race-Neutral Equations Impact Severity Classifications in COPD?

**STUDY DESIGN**

- Retrospective study of 13,324 patients with COPD or FEV₁/FVC <0.70
  - 69.3% were White
  - 30.7% were Black
- Examined associations between a change in severity classification to COPD exacerbations and all-cause hospitalizations after changing from race-specific to race-neutral reference equations.

**RESULTS**

- More Black than White patients had a change in severity classification when using % predicted thresholds (20.2% vs 6.1%) but not with z score thresholds (12.6% vs 12.3%)
- Increased severity classification was associated with increased risk of exacerbation when using z score thresholds but not when using % predicted thresholds
- Decreased severity classification was associated with lower risk of exacerbation with both % predicted and z score thresholds