Patients hospitalized were clinician-diagnosed as AECOPD (n=130).

Clinical assessment, blood biochemical examination, D-dimer, BNP, medical history and consensus

Lung function, chest CT (n=89)

Eligible patients with AECOPD (n=78)

Unconscious when hospitalized (n=7); antibiotic drug had been used patients within the last four weeks (n=11); oral or inhaled corticosteroids within the last four weeks (n=9);

A myocardial infarction within the preceding four months (n=2); congestive heart failure (n=2); refuse to participate (n=10)

Lung cancer (n=2); pulmonary interstitial fibrosis (n=4); asthma (n=5)