assessed for eligibility (n = 110)

enrolment (n = 109)

randomised (n = 70)

excluded (n = 39)

no breathlessness attacks (n = 6)
disbelief in intervention/ control (n = 15)
irritation by cold air draught (n = 5)
already using fan (n = 2)
refusal of any intervention (n = 2), patient circumstances (n = 2), researcher circumstances (n = 3), unknown (nothing documented, n = 4)

allocated to intervention (n=38; COPD n = 24, cancer n = 14)
received allocated intervention (n = 38)
did not receive allocated control (n = 0)

allocated to control (n = 32; COPD n = 21, cancer n = 11)
received allocated control (n = 32)
did not receive allocated control (n=0)

follow-up by end of 2 months (n = 36)
lost to follow-up (n = 14)
reason: died (n= 5), missing questionnaire (n = 9)

data available n = 24

lost to follow-up (n = 20)
reason: died (n = 7), missing questionnaire (n = 13)

data available n = 12