

Muscular involvement in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

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Abstract

Extrapulmonary pathology significantly impairs clinical outcome and prognosis in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients. Decreased exercise capacity is a prominent feature of COPD caused by dyspnoea, associated with chronic bronchial obstruction and by the reduced performance of peripheral and respiratory muscles.

Muscular involvement, usually therapeutically neglected, exists in the majority of patients with moderate and severe pulmonary disease and is associated with an increased risk of mortality.

This article presents the main muscular modifications in COPD, their pathogenic mechanisms and therapeutic strategies proposed.

Keywords: muscular involvement, systemic inflammation, exercise.