

# COPD



## USNIH Definition

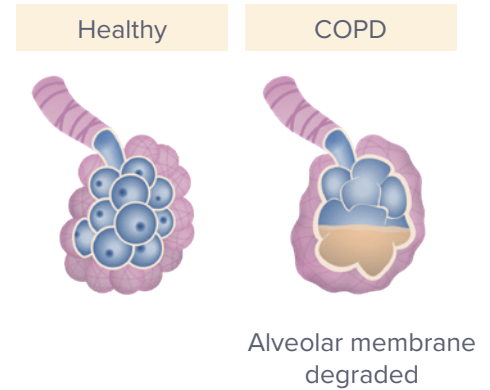
There are 2 main forms of COPD	
Chronic bronchitis	Emphysema
Chronic bronchitis involves a long-term cough with mucus.	Emphysema involves damage to the alveolar walls over time.

**i** Most people with COPD have a combination of both conditions.

## WHO Definition

**Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)** is a lung disease characterized by chronic obstruction of lung airflow that interferes with normal breathing and is not fully reversible.

The COPD diagnosis now includes the old terminology 'chronic bronchitis' and 'emphysema'.



## COPD Symptoms

Symptoms of COPD can be different for each person, but common symptoms are:

Increased shortness of breath
Frequent coughing (with and without mucus)
Increased breathlessness
Wheezing
Tightness in the chest

## Disease Progression

The damage to the airways from COPD will worsen over time from:

Chronic inflammation	Breathing becomes increasingly difficult
Increased numbers of goblet cells	CO <sub>2</sub> and O <sub>2</sub> exchange is impaired
Mucus gland hyperplasia	Air is trapped in the lungs
Pulmonary fibrosis	Exhaling is harder than inhaling
Narrowing and reduction in number of small airways	Airway collapse from alveolar wall destruction

## Asthma and COPD

A patient has asthma but their airflow obstruction is reversible.	→ NOT COPD
A patient has chronic bronchitis, emphysema, or both but does not have airflow obstruction.	→ NOT COPD
A patient has chronic bronchitis, emphysema, or both with non-reversible airflow obstruction.	→ IT IS COPD

*“Characterized by persistent airflow limitation with several features usually associated with asthma and several features usually associated with COPD. Asthma-COPD Overlap Syndrome (ACOS) is therefore identified in clinical practice by the features that it shares with both asthma and COPD.”*

Consensus statement from the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD) and GINA Science Committees

