

Functional Nutrition Working Group Newsletter

July 2023

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

- Has been increasing each year
- Leading cause of death & disability
- Affects more than 5% of the population
- Assessment should include the following:
 - History, Examination & Pulmonary Function tests
- Imaging can help with overall assessment

What to look for?

Spirometry:

- can look at many measurable readings to ensure proper diagnosis and treatment regime
- can see changes within the pulmonary system such as obstructive and restrictive disorders

Sputum:

- · Rust- associated with pneumococcal pneumonia
- Purulent & foul associated with abscesses
- Thick associated with asthma, infections, or CF

Labs:

- CBC w/ differential to see chronic infections
- Immunoglobulins (IgE) to see potential allergens
- Alpha 1 Antitrypsin deficiency associated with early COPD

Considerations:

- If you consider that the patient has COPD, make sure to co-manage this case with either the patient's PCP or refer to a pulmonology workup
- Assisting the co-management team in ordering the appropriate lab tests to expedite faster care
- If the patient is struggling, review medications and compliance with them
- Express benefits of chiropractic care and a properly functioning thoracic spine can help relieve some symptoms and allow for better lung capacity
- Help to teach self-care to patients including proper diaphragmatic breathing techniques





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