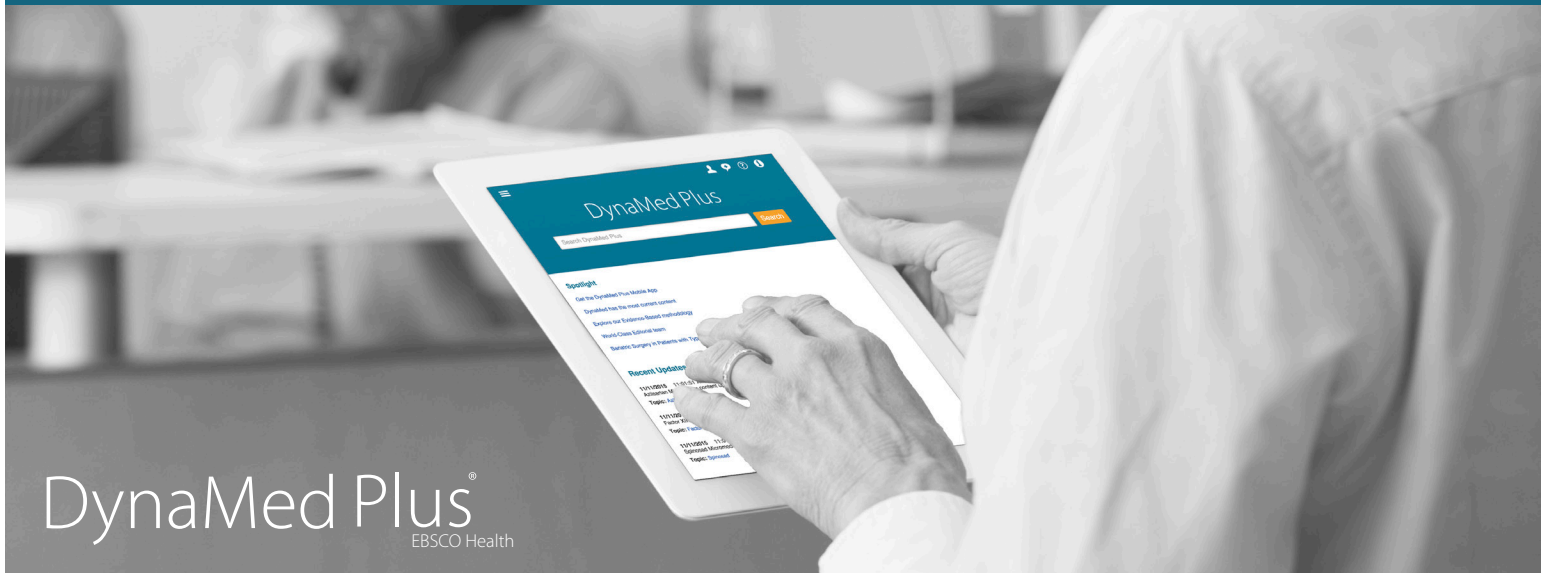


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Updates

1 [+Updated 2017 Jan 07 07:01 PM (ET)]

3 **ACIP** Produced in collaboration with the American College of Physicians

3 **Topic Editor** Terence Trow, MD, FACP, FCCP | **Recommendations Editor** Allen Shaughnessy, PharmD, M Med Ed, FCCP | **Deputy Editor** Peter Oettingen MD, FACC, FAHA

5 **Overview and Recommendations**

4 **Overview and Recommendations**

4 **Background**

- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is characterized by significant airflow limitation associated with a chronic inflammatory response in the airways and lungs resulting in the destruction of lung tissue.
 - It commonly affects adults > 40 years old who smoke, with an estimated worldwide prevalence of 4%-10%.
 - The disease course is usually progressive with a long-term decline in lung function and is the fourth leading cause of mortality worldwide.

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Diagnosis / Imaging studies

- low diaphragm (considered low if border of right hemi-diaphragm in the midclavicular line lies at or below anterior end of seventh rib)
- diaphragmatic flattening
 - seen best on lateral films
 - perpendicular height < 1.5 cm indicates flattening
- Saber-sheath trachea (trachea normal to level of thoracic inlet, then narrows in coronal plane)
- increased retrosternal airspace (> 2.5 cm between sternum and ascending aorta)
- increased length of lung (> 30 cm)
- increased rib space
- bullae
- signs of arterial deficiency in outer lung fields
 - reduced number and size of pulmonary vessels and branches
 - vessels distorted and may have increased branching angles

6 **References** - COPD 2007 Jun;4(2):143 | **6** **host Full Text full-text**

7 **Visual Content**

7 COPD chest CT: This chest CT scan shows multiple sharply defined areas of low attenuation, characteristic of emphysema. Pansegmental emphysema and bullae are seen in the subpleural lung regions. Such findings, with the clinical history and pulmonary function abnormalities, are consistent with a diagnosis of COPD. CT, computed tomography; COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

7 Bullae on chest CT: Bullae appear as hyperlucent areas on CT, sharply demarcated from surrounding lung by a thin wall. Here the bullae have caused compressive atelectasis of the right lower lobe and a leftward shift of the mediastinum. Abbreviation: CT, computed tomography.

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