

# Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD): Disease Burden and Evolving Understanding of Risk Factors

Chronic inflammation in COPD leads to pathophysiologic changes that contribute to systemic coexisting diseases, clinical consequences, and overall burden<sup>1</sup>

**4th**  
leading cause of  
**death** in the US<sup>2</sup>

**5th**  
leading cause of  
**disability-adjusted**  
**life years** worldwide<sup>1</sup>

**Acute exacerbations**  
are associated with  
poor quality of life  
and accelerated lung  
function loss<sup>3-6</sup>

**Smoking** is the  
**leading risk**  
**factor** for COPD<sup>1\*</sup>

\*COPD risk factors include smoking, inhalation of fumes and occupational exposure, early life insults, and genetic factors.<sup>1</sup>

1. Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD). Global strategy for the diagnosis, management, and prevention of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Updated 2022. Accessed August 1, 2022. <https://goldcopd.org/2022-gold-reports-2/>. 2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Accessed September 22, 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/copd/basics-about.html>. 3. Seemungal TA, et al. *Am J Respir Critical Care Med*. 1998;157(5 Pt 1):1418-1422. 4. Jones SE, et al. *J Thorac Dis*. 2018;10(Suppl 12):S1390-S1399. 5. Hansel TT, Barnes PJ. *Lancet*. 2009;374(9691):744-755. 6. Donaldson GC, et al. *Thorax*. 2002;57:847-852.