

COPD

Emphysema vs. Chronic Bronchitis

Emphysema “Pink Puffer”

Risk Factors:
Smoking, alpha 1 antitrypsin deficiency

Patho: Loss of elasticity within alveoli leading to alveolar hyperinflation

Presentation:
Reports of *progressive dyspnea*

Unique s/s: Barrel chest, clubbing, pursed lip breathing, “pink puffer”

Priority Interventions:
Elevate HOB, O2, pursed lip breathing

Meds:
Bronchodilators, anti-cholinergic inhalers, corticosteroids

Chronic Bronchitis “Blue Boater”

Risk Factors:
Smoking

Patho: Chronic irritation of bronchi leading to overactivation of mucus-producing goblet cells

Presentation:
Productive cough

Unique s/s: Rhonchi, productive cough lasting 3 months for 2 consecutive years, CV complications.

Priority Interventions:
Elevate HOB, O2, chest physiotherapy, fluids

Meds:
Bronchodilators, corticosteroids, antibiotics, mucolytics, expectorants