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Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C3199.

A chronic and progressive lung disorder characterized by the loss of elasticity of the bronchial tree and the air sacs, destruction of the air sacs wall, thickening of the bronchial wall, and mucous accumulation in the bronchial tree. The pathologic changes result in the disruption of the air flow in the bronchial airways. Signs and symptoms include shortness of breath, wheezing, productive cough, and chest tightness. The two main types of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease are chronic obstructive bronchitis and emphysema.