Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Clinical implications for patients with lung cancer

Brandi R. Newsome, MD, Karen McDonnell, PhD, RN, OCN®, Jennifer Hucks, MD, and Robin Dawson Estrada, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC

BACKGROUND: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is the most common smoking-related illness. COPD often is underemphasized as a comorbidity except when considering issues surrounding surgical treatment options.

OBJECTIVES: This article aims to provide nurses with an overview of the pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic treatment implications of COPD.

METHODS: Definitions, differentials, and treatment considerations are provided, and clinical implications and resources are described.

FINDINGS: The added burden of dyspnea, fatigue, and psychological distress related to COPD may affect the overall outcome and quality of life (QOL) of patients with lung cancer. Attention to the prevention, assessment, and treatment of lung cancer and COPD and related symptomatology will help maximize patients’ QOL.

KEYWORDS
chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; immunotherapy; lung cancer; quality of life

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