

Table 1. Differential Diagnosis of COPD

DIAGNOSIS	SIGNIFICANT FEATURES
COPD	Onset in middle age Progressive symptoms Smoking history Mostly irreversible airflow obstruction Dyspnea during exercise
Asthma	Onset at a young age Symptoms vary daily Symptoms present early in the morning or late at night Allergy, rhinitis, and/or eczema may be present Family history of asthma Mostly reversible airflow obstruction
Congestive Heart Failure	Fine basilar crackles on auscultation Chest radiograph hallmark features – cardiomegaly, pulmonary edema, re-distribution of pulmonary blood flow Pulmonary function tests results – lung volume restriction, not airflow obstruction
Bronchiectasis	Large volumes of purulent sputum Commonly associated with bacterial infection Coarse crackles/slubbing Chest radiograph shows bronchial dilation, bronchial wall thickening
Tuberculosis	Onset at any age Chest X-ray shows lung infiltrate or cavity Microbiological confirmation High local prevalence of the disease
Obliterative Bronchiolitis	Onset at a young age No smoking history History of rheumatoid arthritis or fume exposure Chest CT shows hypodense areas
Diffuse Panbronchiolitis	Male preponderance No smoking history High association with chronic sinusitis Chest radiograph and HRCT show hyperinflation and diffuse centrilobular nodular opacities

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