
BOOK REVIEW



***Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.* Àlvar Agustí and Bartolomé Celli. Barcelona: Elsevier/Masson, S.A.; 2005.**

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a highly prevalent disease that takes up a large number of hospital beds, generates considerable expense, and gives rise to a wealth of letters, articles, meetings, etc. in the specialty of pneumology and of medicine in general. Most of the available information on this disease reaches us in English. There are, however, many doctors

and original researchers working through the medium of Spanish who are cited often in publications on this disease. The Spanish language book allows us to read these authors in their own language, without intermediaries or interference.

The book was coordinated by Dr Àlvar Agustí and Dr Bartolomé Celli—two of the best-known researchers into COPD and both of them exceptional people. Many authors have worked on the book to provide excellent documented information on COPD in both Spain and Latin America. A brief glance at the contents gives us an idea of the caliber of the authors who have worked on the text.

The book is also well-rounded in its approach, easy to read, and up-to-date to the last reference. It has a section on epidemiology, divided into 3 chapters that give an optimistic view of the disease and provide data from Spain and Latin America. The etiopathogenesis of the disease is dealt

with over 5 chapters covering aspects of pathology, etiology, lung function, exercise, and sleep. There are 2 chapters on clinical practice that cover respiratory signs and symptoms and systemic involvement. The larger section on treatment covers 6 chapters, with coverage ranging from pharmacological to surgical treatment, respiratory rehabilitation, domiciliary oxygen therapy, noninvasive ventilation, and smoking cessation. Finally, a section on other aspects covers exacerbations, home treatment, problems related to altitude, and a final chapter on perspectives—in this case looking not just at the past, but also to the future, which, as the authors tell us at the end of the book, is both exciting and promising.

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