

SEVERE PULMOARY HYPERTENSION IN COPD

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Pulmonary hypertension is a well known complication of COPD. Its presence is associated with a worse survival and an increased risk of hospitalization for exacerbation. High levels of pulmonary hypertension were associated with LL genotype – a high level serotonin transporter gene transcription genotype.

Severe pulmonary hypertension is rather rare in stable patients with COPD but needs to be identified. It is not yet known whether it is a distinct disease, but some studies have convincingly shown that it has similarities with other pulmonary arterial hypertension. Further studies are needed to establish whether patients with severe pulmonary hypertension may have some benefit from the presently available therapy with pulmonary vasodilators and antiproliferative drugs.