Lung Diseases & Fact Sheets

Lung Foundation Australia

Respiratory disease is a medical term that encompasses pathological conditions affecting the organs and tissues that make gas exchange possible in higher animals. Lung diseases include asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), tuberculosis, lung cancer, and various infections like influenza, pneumonia, and tuberculosis. Lung cancer is one of the most common causes of death in Australia and internationally. The lungs are continually exposed to dusts, allergens, chemicals, gases, and environmental pollutants. The management of respiratory diseases in pregnancy requires an understanding of the potential risks to the mother and the developing fetus.

Chronic Respiratory Diseases

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a progressive lung disease that makes it difficult to breathe. “Progressive” means that the disease is usually life-long and each year claims around 400 lives in Australia. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD, is a generalized term for a group of chronic lower respiratory diseases that affect the lungs, the organs that allow us to breathe. Breathing problems caused by lung disease may include coughing, chest pain, dyspnea (shortness of breath), hemoptysis (blood in sputum), stridor, or adventitious sounds.

Overview of Pulmonary Diseases

The term “lung disease” refers to many disorders affecting the lungs, such as asthma, COPD, infections, respiratory viruses, and lung cancer. Some common respiratory conditions affecting the lungs include chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, and pulmonary fibrosis. Asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are significant public health burdens.