

Respiratory infections

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Infectious exacerbation of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and its common consequence: Clostridium Difficile infection

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Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a chronic condition leading to disruption of bronchial structure, inadequate mucus secretion and expulsion and compromising the immune system. Its course is chronic, usually progressive with occurring exacerbations. One of the most common cause of exacerbation is caused by infectious agents. Thus patients often require medical assistance, antimicrobial treatment and hospitalization. Recurring recoveries and antibiotic treatment increase risk of Clostridium difficile infection. The aim of the study was to assess incidence and seriousness of Clostridium Difficile infection in patients with COPD. A retrospective analysis of patients hospitalized in the Internal Medicine Ward of Czerniakowski Hospital between 2012-2015 with COPD exacerbation and subsequent Clostridium Difficile infection was performed. The analysis suggest a tendency of severe course of the Clostridium Difficile infection in patients with infectious COPD exacerbation. Our findings implicate that special precaution measures in management of high risk patients should be implemented in Internal Medicine Wards, to reduce risk of Clostridium Difficile carriage and infection.