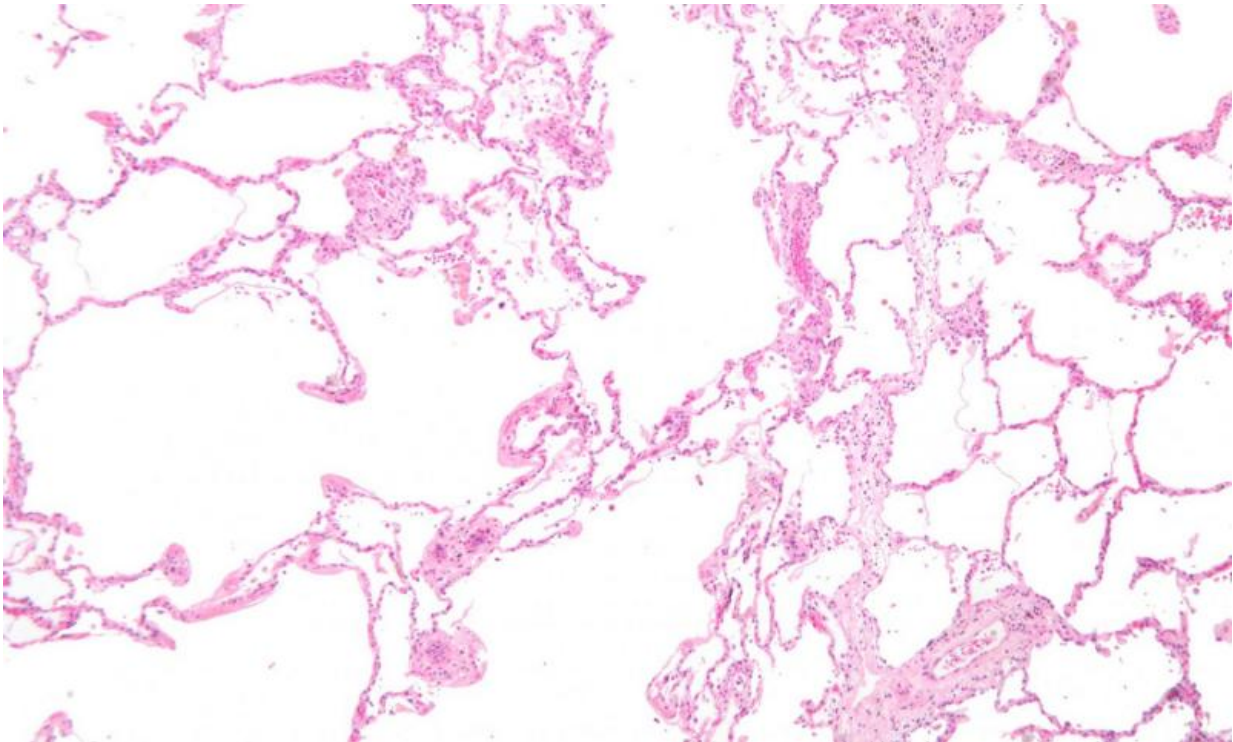


Testosterone replacement therapy may slow the progression of COPD

September 13 2018



Micrograph showing emphysema (left – large empty spaces) and lung tissue with relative preservation of the alveoli (right). Credit: Wikipedia, CC-BY-SA 3.0

Researchers from The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston found that testosterone replacement therapy may slow disease progression of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The paper is currently available in *Chronic Respiratory Disease*.

Chronic [obstructive pulmonary disease](#), or COPD, is predicted by the World Health Organization to be the third-leading cause of illness and death internationally by 2030. Low testosterone is common in men with COPD and may worsen their condition. Men with COPD have shortness of breath and often take steroid-based medications for an extended time, both of which increase their risk of low testosterone.

"Previous studies have suggested that testosterone replacement therapy may have a positive effect on lung function in men with COPD," said Jacques Baillargeon, UTMB professor in preventive medicine and community health. "However, we are the first to conduct a large scale nationally representative study on this association."

The goal of the study was to find out whether testosterone replacement therapy reduced the risk of respiratory hospitalizations in middle-aged and older men with COPD.

Using the Clinformatics Data Mart, a database of one of the largest commercially insured populations in the U.S., Baillargeon and colleagues examined data of 450 men aged 40 to 63 with COPD who began testosterone replacement therapy between 2005 and 2014. They also used the national Medicare database to study data from 253 men with COPD aged 66 and older who initiated testosterone replacement therapy between 2008 and 2013.

"We found that testosterone users had a greater decrease in respiratory hospitalizations compared with non-users. Specifically, middle-aged testosterone replacement therapy users had a 4.2 percent greater decrease in respiratory hospitalizations compared with non-users and older [testosterone](#) replacement [therapy](#) users had a 9.1 percent greater decrease in respiratory hospitalizations compared with non-users," said Baillargeon. "The findings suggest that [testosterone replacement therapy](#) may slow the progression of disease in men with COPD."

More information: Jacques Baillargeon et al, Testosterone replacement therapy and hospitalization rates in men with COPD, *Chronic Respiratory Disease* (2018). [DOI: 10.1177/1479972318793004](https://doi.org/10.1177/1479972318793004)

Provided by SAGE Publications

Citation: Testosterone replacement therapy may slow the progression of COPD (2018, September 13) retrieved 3 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-09-testosterone-therapy-copd.html>

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