

Asthma versus COPD

Suggestive feature	COPD	Asthma
Smoker or ex-smoker:	nearly always present	possible
Symptoms under age 35 years:	rare	often
Chronic productive cough:	common	uncommon
Breathlessness:	persistent and progressive	variable
Night time waking with breathlessness and/or wheeze:	uncommon	common
Significant diurnal or day-to-day variability of symptoms:	uncommon	common
Allergy	uncommon	Common

Adapted from: Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD). Global strategy for the diagnosis, management, and prevention of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (revised 2011). Barcelona: GOLD; 2011.