Comprehensive supportive care for chronic pulmonary infections
Gary T. Buckholz and Charles F. von Gunten

in Supportive Care in Respiratory Disease
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Chronic respiratory infections are a major healthcare issue around the world associated with significant morbidity and mortality. Treatment of these infections often entails prolonged antimicrobial regimens which have toxicities and may or may not be successful. This chapter describes optimal supportive and palliative care of the symptoms encountered with chronic respiratory infections broadly. Symptoms frequently encountered in this patient population include: dyspnoea or breathlessness, secretions, persistent cough, and haemoptysis.

Respiratory symptoms
Justin Amery and Michelle Meiring

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When dealing with respiratory symptoms, this chapter suggests that one must not panic. Breathing symptoms are frightening for everyone. Mostly, one has more time than he thinks, and symptoms tend to respond well to treatment. One should hope for the best and prepare for the worst: There are two life-threatening situations in this area: acute airway obstruction and massive haemoptysis. Both need forward planning to ensure that, if they happen, the team can be calm, efficient and effective. They should have rapid access to drugs to enable rapid and complete sedation. Non-pharmacological methods are very effective.
Meanwhile, the most distressing respiratory symptoms usually respond to low dose opioids and/or benzodiazepines.

**Massive haemoptysis: causes, assessment, and management**

Sam H. Ahmedzai and Martin F. Muers

in Supportive Care in Respiratory Disease

This chapter discusses the causes, diagnosis, and management of massive haemoptysis. It explains that massive haemoptysis is a medical emergency with a significant associated mortality and that bleeding is most cases usually originates from the systemic rather than the pulmonary circulation. The chapter recommends rapid intervention by experienced medical practitioners in order to preserve airway function and reduce the considerable associated mortality that may be accomplished though early surgical intervention or embolisation.

**Assessment and management of respiratory symptoms of malignant disease**

Sam H. Ahmedzai and Martin F. Muers

in Supportive Care in Respiratory Disease

This chapter examines the diagnosis and management of respiratory syndromes associated with malignant diseases and evaluates the supportive care needs of patients with primary thoracic cancers. Some of the common symptoms in patients with thoracic malignancy include dyspnoea, cough, and haemoptysis. Mild symptoms can be effectively managed by pharmacological methods, but for malignant ones radiotherapy and brachytherapy are recommended.