

# THE ENDOTHELIUM FUNCTION IN PATIENTS WITH COPD OF VARIOUS DEGREE OF SEVERITY

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## *Summary*

There was conducted an estimation of endothelium injury and vasoregulating function of vascular wall in 33 patients with COPD of various severity and in 18 active smokers with smoking index at least 5 packs/years without clinical and instrumental signs of bronchoobstructive syndrome. It was shown that the endothelium dysfunction was present in active smokers with normal ventilatory function of lungs. Endothelium function indicators changes (blood content of stable metabolites of nitrogen oxide ( $\text{NO}_2 + \text{NO}_3$ ) and endothelin-1) in individuals with long-term smoking and patients with initial COPD stages (I-II stages) were expressed in similar degree, regardless of bronchial obstruction, and correlated with smoking index (pack/years quantity). In patients with severe COPD (III-IV stages) an obstructive ventilation disturbances aggravated endothelium dysfunction, determining unfavorable prognosis in this category of patients.