



NEWS from Trudell Medical International*

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World COPD Day Spreads Word About Help for Devastating Lung Disease

Today is the seventh annual World COPD Day, an event held each November to raise awareness of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) worldwide.

COPD is a devastating lung disease that progressively robs sufferers of breath. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), COPD is the fourth leading cause of death worldwide¹, causing more than 3 million deaths every year². Moreover, recent studies indicate that 25% to 50% of people with clinically significant COPD don't know they have the disease.

Without treatment, COPD is generally a progressive disease, and as the disease gets worse patients become breathless during everyday activities such as climbing a flight of stairs, walking the dog, or even getting washed and dressed in the morning.

The earlier COPD is detected, the more effective treatment can be. Medicines for COPD alleviate symptoms of breathlessness so that patients can participate more fully in daily life. Patients may be able to slow or even stop the progress of COPD by reducing their exposure to risk factors for the disease.

Worldwide, the most commonly encountered risk factor for COPD is cigarette smoking. Other important risk factors include dusts and chemicals encountered on the job and smoke from biomass fuels (such as coal, wood, and animal dung) burned for cooking and heating in poorly ventilated dwellings, especially in developing countries.

For 25 years, the **AeroChamber*** Brand of Valved Holding Chamber (VHC) has played an important clinical role in the management of respiratory disease. Healthcare Professionals and patients in over 100 countries have come to depend on consistent aerosol drug delivery provided by the full line of **AeroChamber*** VHCs. Trudell Medical International is committed to continuous improvement and the innovation of aerosol science, to help patients around the world breathe easier and live an active life. Please join Trudell Medical International in recognizing World COPD Day.

¹ World Health Report. Geneva: World Health Organization. Available from URL: <http://www.who.int/whr/2000/en/statistics.htm>; 2000.

² Lopez AD, Shibuya K, Rao C, Mathers CD, Hansell AL, Held LS, et al. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: current burden and future projections. *Eur Respir J* 2006;27(2):397-412.

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