

Namaste, yogis: Yoga as effective as traditional pulmonary rehab in patients with COPD

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Researchers from the Department of Pulmonary Medicine and Sleep Disorders and All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India, studied the effects of yoga as a form of pulmonary rehabilitation on markers of inflammation in the body. Results from this study showed yoga exercises provide improvements that are just as effective as traditional pulmonary rehabilitation methods in improving pulmonary function, exercise capacity, and indices of systemic inflammation.

Sixty patients with COPD were randomly divided into two groups, one of which was taught yoga exercises while the other underwent a structured [pulmonary rehabilitation](#) program. These groups were tested on shortness of breath, serum inflammation, and lung function tests. Each group participated in 1 hour of training twice a week for the first 4 weeks, then training every 2 weeks for 8 weeks, and the remaining weeks were at home. Results showed that yoga and pulmonary rehabilitation exercises resulted in similar improvements in [pulmonary function](#), 6-minute walk distance, Borg scale, severity of dyspnea, quality of life, and levels of C-reactive protein after 12 weeks of training.

"This study suggests yoga may be a cost-effective form of rehabilitation that is more convenient for patients," said Mark J. Rosen, MD, Master FCCP, CHEST Medical Director. "The authors recommended adoption of yoga programs as an option as part of long-term management of COPD. These findings should be confirmed in new studies and the potential mechanisms explored."

More information: Further results will be shared during CHEST 2015 on Monday, October 26, 2015, at 8:30 AM at Palais des congrès de Montréal, room 513ef.

Provided by American College of Chest Physicians

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