

Exploring The Lived Experiences of Women with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

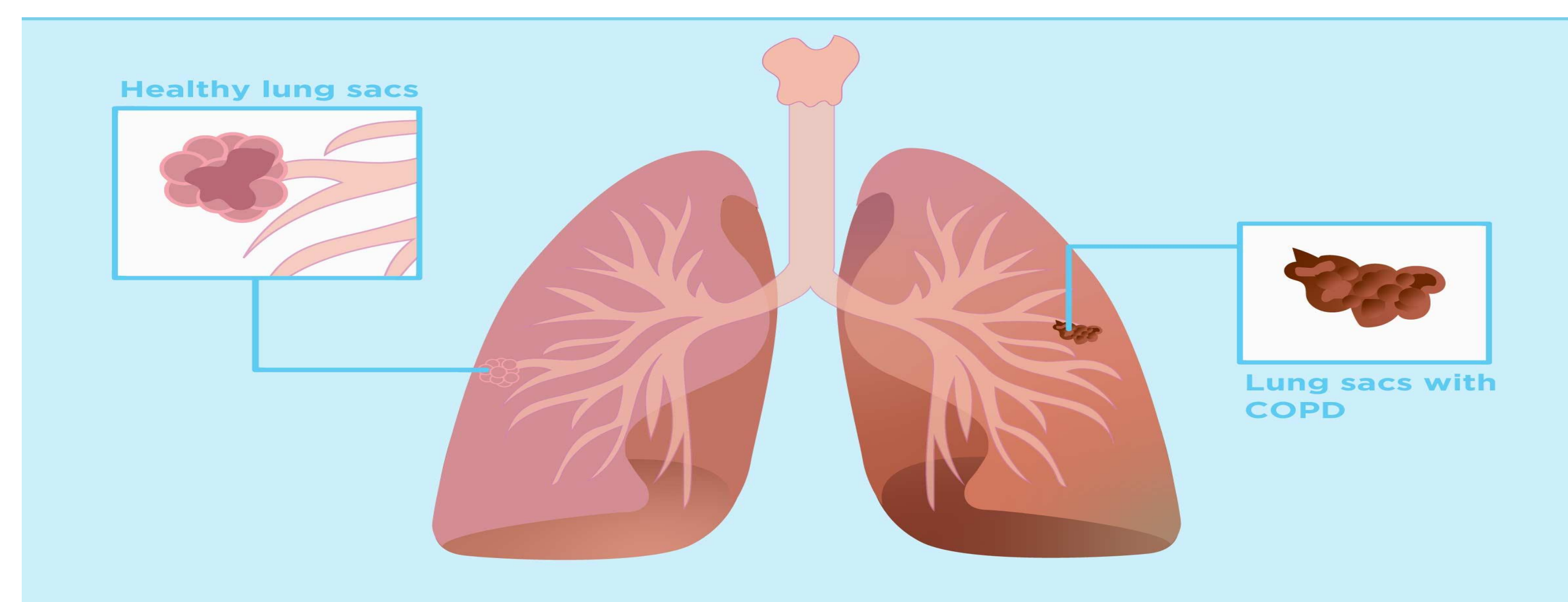
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Background

There are currently many barriers to women seeking treatment and diagnosis of COPD. These barriers include greater under-diagnoses than men and fewer medical consultations, among others(1). Often thought of as a "male smoker's" disease, in the past decade there has been a sharp increase in the number of COPD cases in women (2). The lack of research in Womens' experiences are thought to be the cause of these disparities.

There is no cure for COPD; treatments for the disease are used to manage symptoms and prevent exacerbations (2). As such, the quality of life of a person living with COPD can vary greatly and can depend on the care that is being received (3).



Research Question and Objectives

The goal of this research is to explore the experiences of women throughout their COPD diagnosis and treatment process. This research will be useful in supporting women in receiving optimal care. Through this research, we will provide recommendations for the development of solutions toward the provision of optimal and equitable care for COPD. This research will attempt to answer the following question: *What is the experience of women with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease through the diagnosis and treatment process?*

This study has three objectives:

1. Explore the experiences of women during the diagnosis and treatment of their disease within primary care.
2. Gain an understanding about what optimal and equitable care looks like to women with COPD.
3. Provide recommendations for better care for women with COPD.

Methods

A **qualitative research design** will be used to conduct this study.

The research will be guided by a **critical theory paradigm**. This paradigm acknowledges the structures that oppress women, shaping their experiences (5).

This study will use a **phenomenological methodology** to explore the lived experiences. This study and subsequent analysis will be guided by van Manen's hermeneutic phenomenological method (6).

Significance and Conclusions

Currently there is a dearth of research around how the differences between male and females with COPD influences women's diagnosis and treatment. By exploring the experiences of women receiving treatment for COPD, this research can be used to help support the development of solutions to allow women to receive more equitable care. This research will provide considerations to care by describing the experience women have with COPD.

By giving women a voice that has been systematically overlooked in healthcare it can give us more insight into the phenomenon of being a woman living with COPD.

Check This Out!

References and
Other Info:

