



Epigenetic blood biomarkers of ageing and mortality in COPD

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Epigenetic blood biomarkers of cellular and replicative senescence may improve the clinical assessment of COPD patients, particularly for those at a higher risk of death <https://bit.ly/3nEM7tp>

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To the Editor:

COPD is an age-related condition that is linked to cellular senescence [1]. In COPD, contributors to cellular senescence include oxidative stress from environmental factors, such as cigarette smoking and persistent lung inflammation [2]. These factors can also augment replicative senescence, which is characterised by progressive telomere attrition, ultimately leading to cell cycle arrest and death. Patients with COPD have shorter telomeres [3] and faster rates of telomere attrition [4] compared to controls; however, the clinical impact of cellular or replicative senescence in COPD remains uncertain.