

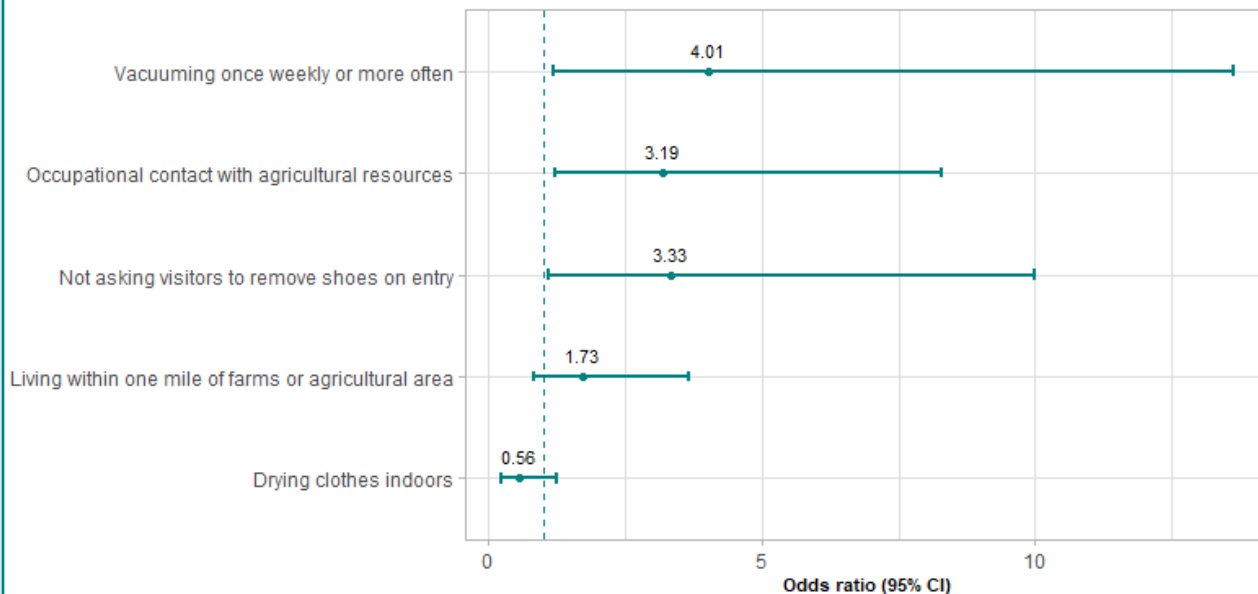
What?

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (**COPD**) is a group of lung conditions that cause breathing difficulties¹ and is **associated with significant morbidity and mortality**². A recently published study evaluated the impact of **self-reported environmental fungal (mold) exposure** on COPD outcomes².

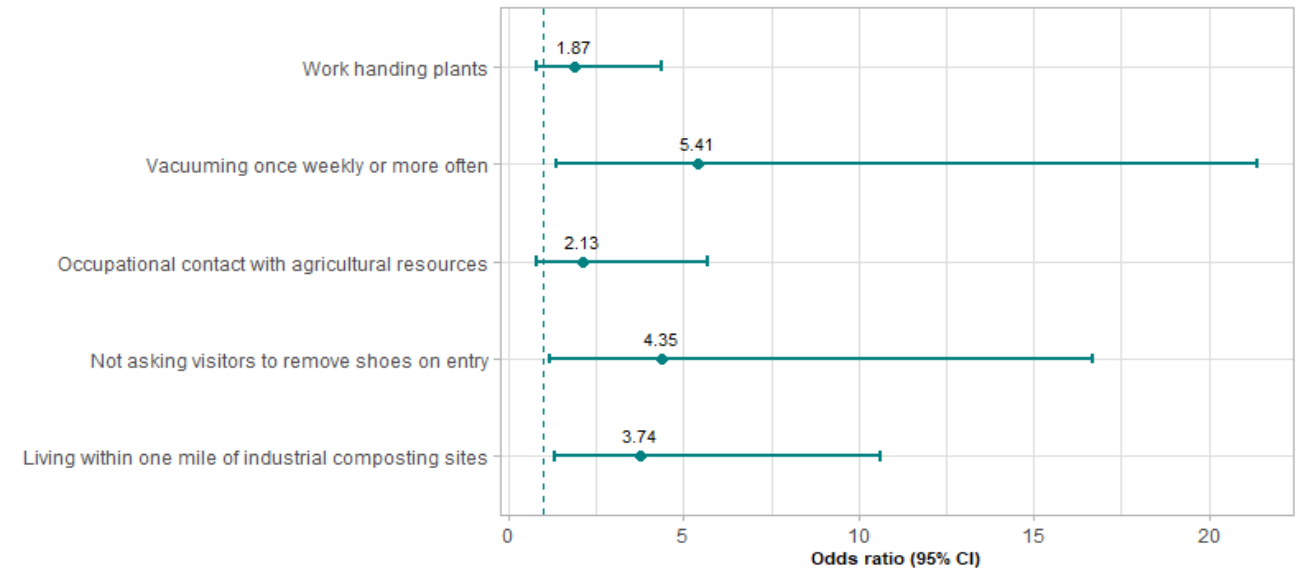
Why?

COPD cannot be cured or reversed, and in some people, it may continue to get worse despite treatment¹. A recent study suggests that the **development and exacerbation of COPD** are influenced by **environmental factors**.²

Risk factors for four or more visits to GP for chest symptoms in last 12 months



Risk factors for four or more antibiotics courses in last 12 months



Who?

Certain domestic exposures exhibited a strong association with negative outcomes in COPD patients. **Frequent vacuuming** and **not removing shoes on entry** were significantly associated with higher number of **GP visits or antibiotics courses**.²

Author Comments

The present study suggests that, even for incurable conditions such as COPD, apart from using pharmaceutical treatment, disease management can be helped by controlling for factors such as **domestic exposures**.

1. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chronic-obstructive-pulmonary-disease-copd/>, accessed 03/05/2022

2. Kosmidis C, Hashad R, et al. Impact of self-reported environmental mould exposure on COPD outcomes [published online ahead of print, 2021/6/12]. Pulmonology. 2021;S2531-0437(21)00096-9.