Dr. Lunsford,

As stated in my initial response, I would expect to find dyspnea and, most likely, wheezing in an exacerbation of COPD. Miravitlles, Anzueto, and Jardim (2017) include cough, wheezing, dypsnea, sputum production, or chest discomfort/tightness as possible symptoms of an exacerbation of COPD (pp. 4-5). According to the same study, “in many cases, exacerbations are triggered by respiratory tract infections (predominantly viral, but also bacterial) and environmental factors such as air pollution” (p. 1). Should I suspect a COPD exacerbation in my patient, it would serve the patient well for me to not only treat the exacerbation, but also to interview the patient further, in an attempt to determine a probable cause for the exacerbation.

Rene

Miravetlles, M., Anzueto, A., & Jardim, J. R. (2017). Optimizing bronchodilation in the prevention of COPD exacerbations. *Respiratory Research, 181*(24). doi:10.1186/s12931-017-0601-2