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Nota di contenuto	Contents; Editors; Contributors; Chapter 1: COPD exacerbations: definitions and classifications; Chapter 2: Infectious aetiologies in acute exacerbations of COPD; Chapter 3: Pathophysiology of COPD exacerbations; Chapter 4: Acute respiratory failure during exacerbation of COPD; Chapter 5: Effects of acute exacerbations on nutritional and metabolic profile in patients with COPD; Chapter 6: Outcomes in exacerbations of COPD; Chapter 7: Antibiotics in the treatment of acute exacerbations of COPD; Chapter 8: Antibiotics in COPD: pharmacokinetic/ pharmacodynamic dosing concepts Chapter 9: Acute exacerbations of COPD: application of evidence-based guidelines Chapter 10: Economic evaluation of antibiotic treatment of exacerbations of COPD; Chapter 11: Managing acute exacerbations in COPD with bronchodilators and corticosteroids; Chapter 12: Non-invasive positive pressure ventilation for the treatment of respiratory failure due to exacerbations of COPD; Chapter 13: 'Home hospitals' for acute exacerbations of COPD; Chapter 14: Prevention of acute exacerbations of COPD; Chapter 15: Novel therapeutic targets for acute COPD exacerbation; Abbreviations; Index
Sommario/riassunto	The pronounced variability in the incidence and severity of chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma and COPD, makes effective

treatment more difficult, and the social and economic costs of these diseases all the greater. Acute exacerbations are multi-factorial in origin, and are known to be linked with a number of agents including allergens, atmospheric pollution and infectious agents. Effective treatment requires a similarly complex approach that addresses each of the component causes. This text brings together current knowledge of the epidemiology and pathophysiology of these episodes, a
