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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 7: Antibiotics in COPD: pharmacokinetic/ pharmacodynamic dosing concepts Chapter 9: Acute exacerbations of COPD: application of evidence-based guidelinesChapter 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

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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