

Asthma vs. COPD: Know how they overlap

ANCHOR LEDE

Smoky air and allergens come out to play during the summer months, making asthma and COPD worse. That's why you should know how the ailments are alike and differ.

TAKE VO

OSF HealthCare provider Tracy Packer says asthma describes airway inflammation due to things like cigarette smoke and dust. COPD is airway damage.

The long-term outlooks also differ.

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Tracy Packer, OSF HealthCare provider

"Asthma has a reversible component. It's reversible airway obstruction. COPD is chronic and progressive. Our job is to help slow down the process so our patients can live a full, healthy life." (:19)

VO TAG

Inhalers and medicines are common treatments for both problems. But for severe cases of COPD, you may need to go to pulmonary rehab, go on oxygen, or have surgery.