Foreword

Tom Brady’s Lungs

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It’s Super Bowl Sunday. I am watching the game, in awe of the athletic prowess and cardiopulmonary stamina of these men. Not only football players but all professional athletes amaze me with their ability to perform physical feats with ease and grace. Despite bursts of speed and agility, they seem to rarely be out of breath. Although some athletes (eg, Jackee Joyner-Kersee, Emmett Smith) have noted lung disease (asthma), most athletes would not be able to do what they do if they had significant pulmonary disease.

Chronic respiratory disease is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States (after heart disease, cancer, and accidents), accounting for over 150,000 deaths yearly. Over the last three and one-half decades, the mortality from respiratory disease has increased by almost 30%. This has occurred despite advances in diagnosis and treatment.

In this issue of the Medical Clinics of North America, Dr Musani and colleagues discuss the impact, diagnosis, and advances in treatments of pulmonary diseases, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pulmonary hypertension, and interstitial lung diseases. Utilizing the information presented will not necessarily turn our patients into Tom Brady, but it is hoped will help them breathe easier.

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