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# Cancer-protective effects of inhaled corticosteroids in COPD are likely related to modification of epithelial activation

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**COPD is an independent risk factor for lung cancer. Studies have suggested that inhaled corticosteroids have reduced the incidence of lung cancer in these patients. This effect is likely related to modification of epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT).** <http://bit.ly/2Km4VK4>

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## *To the Editor:*

The article published by RAYMAKERS *et al.* [1] presents a lung cancer-protective effect of inhaled corticosteroids (ICS) in patients with COPD. The authors suggest that this effect is due to “anti-inflammatory” properties of ICS on the airways. This may be partly true but, from what we have come to know of COPD pathogenesis, the situation is likely to be more nuanced and complicated than that.