

Chronic airway diseases like SuA, CRSwNP and COPD can be referred to as ‘epithelial-driven diseases’; recognising the role of the epithelium as the master regulator of inflammation, responsible for initiation and amplification of downstream pathways¹⁻⁵

Epithelial activation is the **critical initiation step** for multiple diseases of the airway, orchestrating complex and overlapping immune pathways¹

Environmental triggers activate the **epithelium** and cause **barrier dysfunction**¹

Multiple triggers cause release of **epithelial cytokines** (TSLP, IL-33 and IL-25), which drive **multiple inflammatory pathways** leading to a variety of **clinical manifestations**^{2,3}

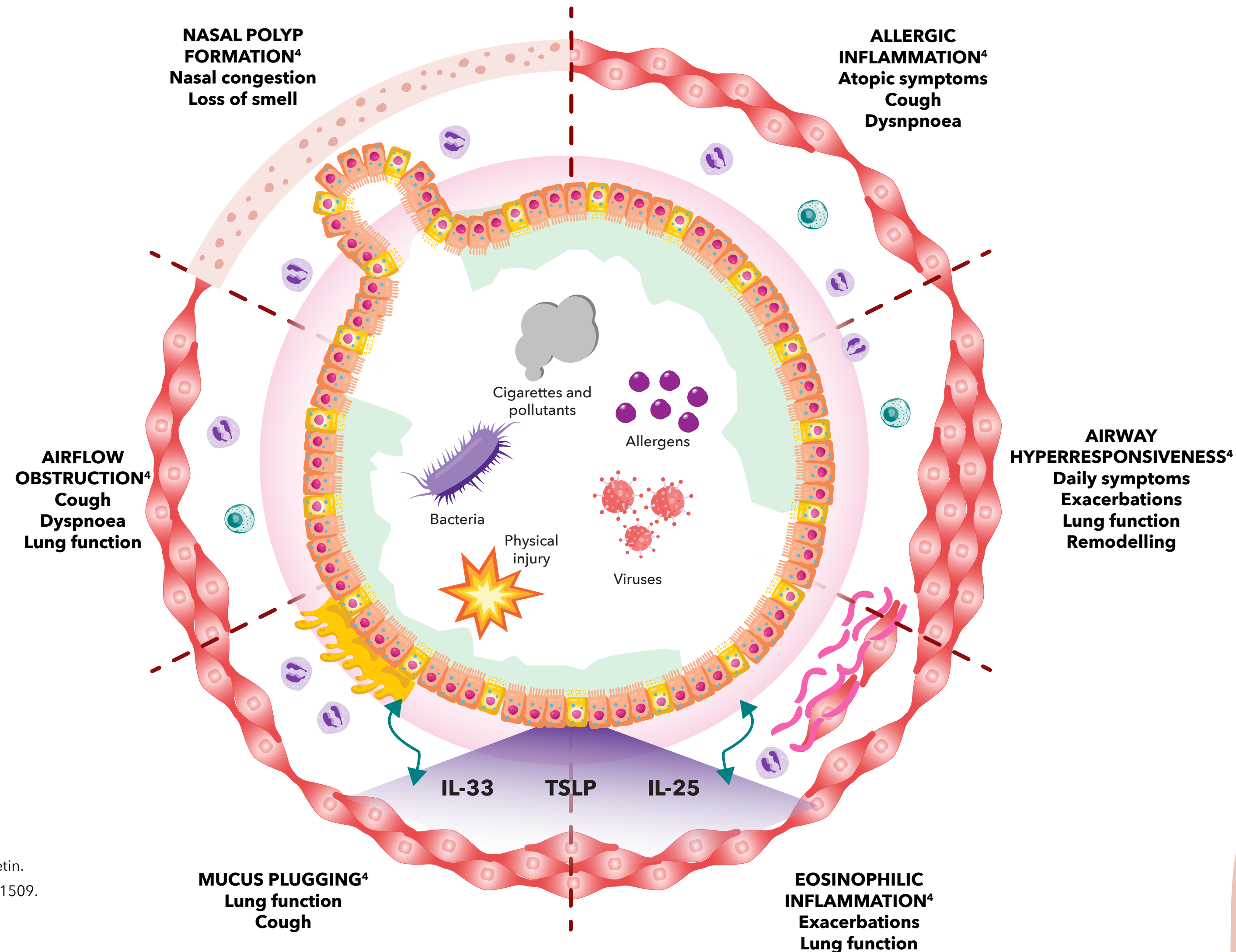


Figure adapted from the Centre of Excellence in Severe Asthma. Severe Asthma Toolkit. 2018. Available from: <https://toolkit.severeasthma.org.au> (Accessed 15 July 2025)

COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; CRSwNP, chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps; IL, interleukin; SuA, severe uncontrolled asthma; TSLP, thymic stromal lymphopoietin.

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