



## Repair of the airway epithelium: Potential opportunities for therapeutic intervention in airway disease

<http://www.firstlight.cn> 2005-10-14

The epithelium of the airway has considerable capacity to undergo repair. These repair processes are responsible for maintaining and restoring function after injury of the airways, which likely occurs often as a result of infectious, toxic or other exposures. However, repair processes need not be fully effective. Inadequate repair can take a number of forms and may result in metaplasia, hyperplasia or fibrotic scarring. It is likely that repair processes that lead to tissue disruption play an important role in the chronic airways diseases, such as asthma and bronchitis. Through delineation of these processes, it may become feasible to target therapeutic interventions in order to achieve more effective maintenance of tissue structure.

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