Bronchiectasis is a chronic lung condition in which the walls of the airways are abnormally enlarged and thickened from inflammation and infection. Because the airway walls are damaged, it is difficult for mucus to leave the body. Over time, the increase in mucus build-up can lead to infection, which once again may damage the airway walls.

A cycle of inflammation and infection can develop, ultimately leading to loss of lung function over time. People with bronchiectasis have periodic flare-ups of breathing difficulties, called exacerbations and are treated with antibiotics. Some treatment plans include long term antibiotic usage.

**COMMON SYMPTOMS & SIGNS**

- COUGHING UP LARGE AMOUNTS OF MUCUS EVERY DAY
- SHORTNESS OF BREATH THAT GETS WORSE DURING EXACERBATIONS
- FEELING RUN-DOWN OR TIRED, ESPECIALLY DURING EXACERBATIONS
- FEVERS AND/OR CHILLS, USUALLY DEVELOPING DURING EXACERBATIONS
- WHEEZING OR A WHISTLING SOUND WHILE YOU BREATHE
- COUGHING UP BLOOD OR MUCUS MIXED WITH BLOOD, A CONDITION CALLED HEMOPTYSIS
- CHEST PAIN

Bronchiectasis is a chronic condition that usually develops slowly over time. While it can never be cured, it is possible to slow the progress and protect lung function through effective management. That’s why it is important for you to seek out a health-care provider who can work with you to improve your breathing.

Learn more by going to chestfoundation.org/Bronchiectasis

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