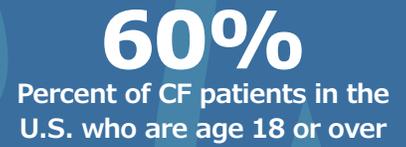
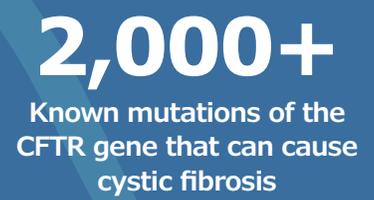




**WHAT IS CYSTIC FIBROSIS**

Cystic fibrosis (CF) is an inherited disease that causes thickened mucus to form in the lungs, pancreas, and other organs. In the lungs, this mucus blocks the airways, causing lung damage and making it hard to breathe. CF is a life-threatening disease, but thanks to treatment advances, people with cystic fibrosis have a longer life expectancy and better quality of life than ever before.



**SYMPTOMS** People with CF primarily experience symptoms of respiratory tract disease (breathing and lungs) and gastrointestinal diseases (digestive tract).

**RESPIRATORY TRACT DISEASE SYMPTOMS:**

- Chronic coughing
- Recurring chest colds
- Wheezing (that may not respond to standard asthma therapy)
- Shortness of breath
- Frequent sinus infections
- Allergies that last all year

**GASTROINTESTINAL DISEASE SYMPTOMS:**

- Frequent large, greasy, and foul-smelling bowel movements
- Inability to gain weight
- Constipation and intestinal blockage
- Recurrent inflammation of the pancreas
- Symptoms of high blood sugar, such as being thirsty and urinating frequently
- Vitamin deficiency



While there is no cure for cystic fibrosis, the life expectancy for people with CF born today is 40s or 50s. Learn more at [chestfoundation.org/cf](https://chestfoundation.org/cf)

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