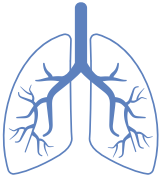


# Frequently Asked Questions about Bronchiectasis



## What is bronchiectasis?

Bronchiectasis is a chronic lung disease characterized by enlarged airways that are thickened and/or scarred. These changes can cause mucus to build up in the lungs. Excessive mucus build-up in the airways may lead to repeated infections causing more lung damage and worsening respiratory symptoms.



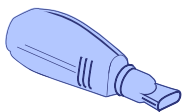
## What are the symptoms of bronchiectasis?

Symptoms vary greatly between people: most have a long-term cough, producing sputum, but some might have a dry cough with little or no sputum. Other symptoms include repeated breathlessness, repeat lung infections, fatigue, unexplained fever, chills, weight loss, and chest pain.



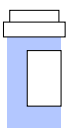
## How is bronchiectasis diagnosed?

Bronchiectasis is typically diagnosed by a high resolution computed tomography (CT) scan of the lungs – a form of x-ray that gives a very detailed picture of your lungs. The image will show the location of the airway abnormalities within the lung, as well as the extent of lung damage.

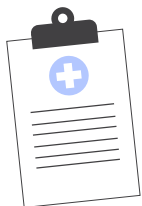


## What are the treatments?

There are two key parts to proper treatment. First, it is important to remove retained mucus from the airways (airway clearance), which may include: manual airway clearance techniques, use of airway clearance devices, medicines, aerobic exercise, and drinking plenty of water.



Second, preventing and treating infections when present. This process involves collecting a sputum sample to find bacteria, fungi (mold) or mycobacteria that are present in the airways. Once the type of infection is identified, it is treated with the appropriate antibiotics.



## Is there a cure?

There currently is no cure for bronchiectasis, but it can be treated effectively. Watch for early warning signs of a flare-up and work with a health care provider to find the best treatment plan. Research and clinical trials are taking place now to find better treatments for bronchiectasis.

