

Understanding Your Lung Health: EGPA



Eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA) is a rare form of vasculitis, meaning it causes inflammation in small blood vessels, which can result in damage to organs throughout the body. In most patients, blood vessels in the lungs are affected, causing breathing and lung issues.

What causes EGPA?

It is not known what causes EGPA. Typically, the immune system defends the body but in auto-immune diseases, such as vasculitis, the immune system increases activity and attacks healthy tissues for reasons we don't quite understand.

What are the symptoms of EGPA?

Nearly everyone living with EGPA will experience these signs and symptoms:

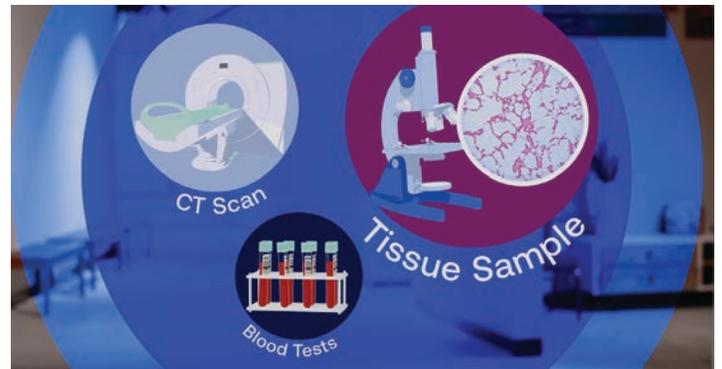
- Feeling frequently ill and tired
- Loss of appetite, resulting in weight loss
- Fever
- Asthma and/or sinus polyps
- A higher-than-normal level of eosinophils, a type of white blood cell

Patients can also have any number of these symptoms depending on the organ affected:

- Shortness of breath
- Coughing
- Chest pain
- Rashes on the skin
- Muscle and/or joint pain
- Nasal discharge
- Facial pain
- Abdominal pain or bloody stools
- Numbness or loss of strength
- Tingling in hands and feet
- Kidney disease

Treating EGPA

There is no cure for EGPA, but treatment can help ease symptoms, preventing complications and relapse. Working with a healthcare provider who has experience treating EGPA can help you find the treatment that is most effective for you. The goal of treatment is remission, meaning that the condition is no longer causing any complications. Specialists will use medications to turn down your immune system's activity.



Diagnosing EGPA

It will require a series of steps starting with a detailed history that may lead your doctor to order these diagnostic tests.

The Lung HelpLine is staffed by registered respiratory therapists that can answer your lung health questions for free at **1-800-LUNGUSA**.

Learn more at Lung.org/EGPA.

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