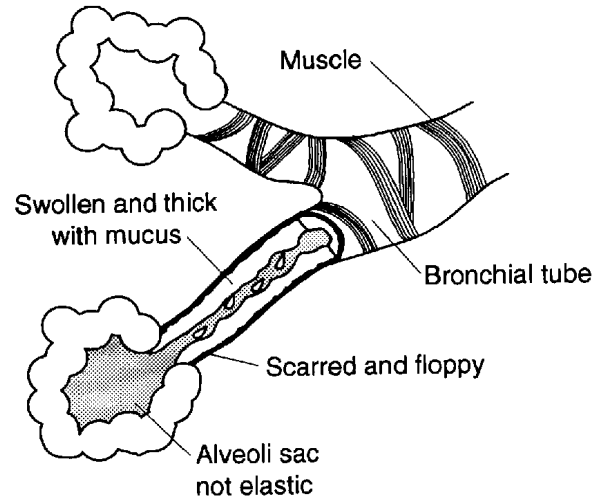


Bronchiectasis

Bronchiectasis is a disease which blocks airflow as air tries to leave the lungs. It is a disease of the airways. In bronchiectasis, the walls of the airway are covered with scar tissue and become “floppy”. The inside of the airway becomes swollen and secretes a lot of mucus. This mucus is usually very thick and cannot easily be removed, so air becomes trapped in the lungs.



Cause

The cause of bronchiectasis is not always clear. It might be the result of a serious infection, and is common in children and adults with cystic fibrosis. It also may be caused by the airways (bronchial tubes) not being formed correctly before birth or during early childhood.

Symptoms

A person who has bronchiectasis normally has a lot of coughing, mucus production, wheezing and shortness of breath much of the time. There are usually a number of infections present and sometimes, with these infections, a person will cough up blood. A special x-ray called a CT scan is used to help diagnose bronchiectasis.

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Learn more about your health care.

Treatment

As a part of your treatment you may be told to:

- Drink lots of fluid to keep mucus thin.
- Take antibiotics to fight the infection.
- Use inhalers with bronchodilator medicines to help keep the airways open
- Use postural drainage and percussion to help move mucus out of the lungs
- Use pursed-lip breathing to help the shortness of breath
- Have surgery in severe cases to remove the affected part of the lung or have a lung transplant

- **Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: health-info@osu.edu.**