

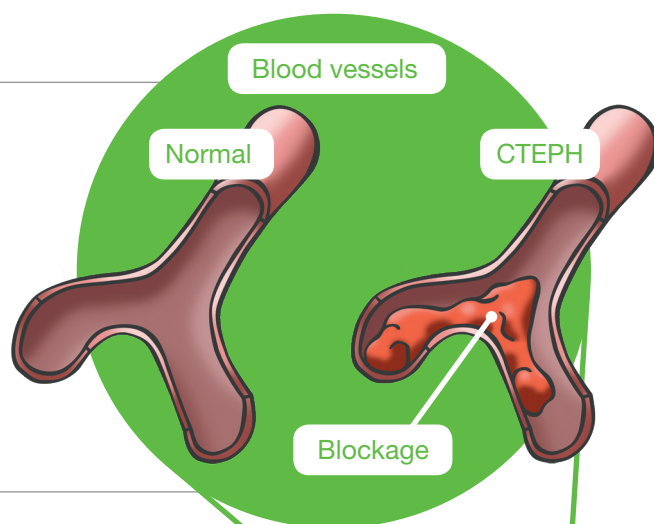
CTEPH

Chronic Thromboembolic Pulmonary Hypertension

(shortened as CTEPH, pronounced “see-tef”) is one type of pulmonary hypertension (PH). PH is a condition where hypertension (high blood pressure) occurs in the arteries that carry blood to the lungs.

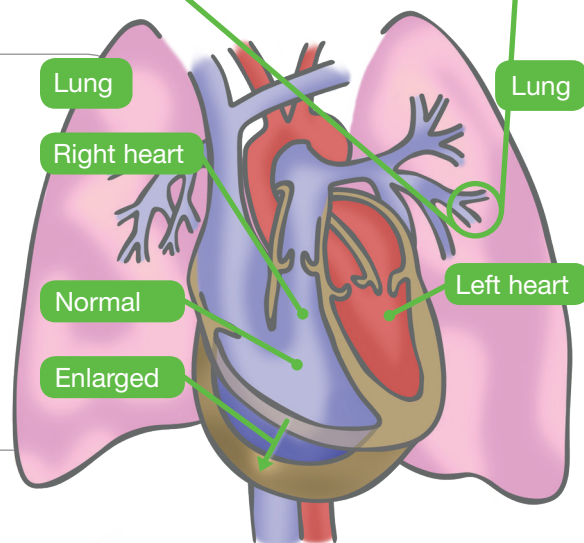
What causes CTEPH?

In most cases, blood clots in the blood vessels of your legs break off and travel to the lungs. Sometimes, however, blood clots or tissue growth may form in the blood vessels of the lungs. Over time, extra tissue forms over these clots and causes a blockage.



How CTEPH affects the heart

This blockage restricts blood flow, increasing the pressure inside the blood vessels of the lungs, which makes it harder for the right side of the heart to pump blood into the lungs. Over time, this increased stress causes the right side of the heart to enlarge and weaken.



What are the symptoms of CTEPH?

With CTEPH, the heart has a harder time pumping blood to the rest of the body. This can cause any of the following symptoms:



Shortness of breath with exercise



Feeling tired or dizzy



Swelling in the ankles, arms, or stomach area



Fainting



Chest pain

As CTEPH progresses the symptoms get worse.

Treating CTEPH

Many patients with CTEPH can have an operation to remove any blockages from their lungs. Patients who can't have the operation or those who still have symptoms after the operation may be able to be helped by taking medicine. You and your doctor will discuss your options and decide what is best for you.



Medical terms you might hear

Arterial—something to do with the blood vessels that carry blood from the heart

Chronic—something that happens over a long period of time

Emboli—blood clots

Endothelial—the inner lining of the blood vessels

Hypertension—high blood pressure

Hypoxia—not enough oxygen in the blood

Pulmonary—something to do with the lungs

Pulmonary embolism—a blood clot that forms in a leg vein that breaks off and gets stuck in a blood vessel in the lungs

Pulmonary endarterectomy—an operation to remove blood clots in the lungs

Syncope—fainting

Thromboembolic—something to do with a blood clot that travels through the blood and gets stuck in a smaller blood vessel

V/Q scan, also called a ventilation-perfusion scan—a test that measures the airflow (ventilation) and blood flow (perfusion) in the lungs

Questions you have for your doctor

Notes

