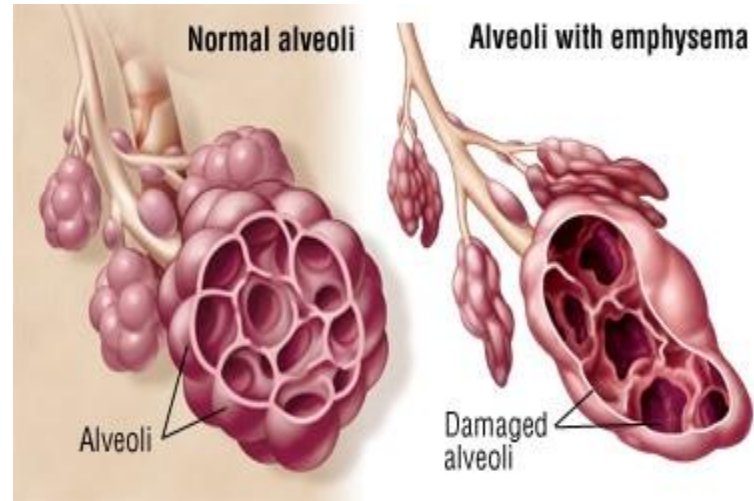


# Emphysema

# What is Emphysema?

It is long-term disease of the lungs. Emphysema is a type of COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) which is a progressive lung disease caused by over inflation of the alveolar (air sacs in the lungs), and COPD is an umbrella term used to describe a group of lung conditions (emphysema is one of them) which are characterized by increasing breathlessness. A person with emphysema has COPD; however, not everybody with COPD has emphysema. Normal lung tissue resembles a sponge, however the lungs of people with emphysema look like an old used sponge, with large holes in them and a limited ability to spring back into shape.

Emphysema is a progressive disease that usually starts slowly with small holes between the alveoli which eventually collapse the form larger air spaces old air gets trapped in these air spaces, which makes it difficult for people to inhale fresh air. Blood flow through the alveoli is also impaired meaning that people with emphysema not only struggle to breathe but have trouble receiving enough oxygen. It is more common with age and in males, and it tends to run in the families.



## 2. What organs or parts of the human body are affected?

Emphysema a pulmonary disease, damages the alveoli of the lung as well as the breathing passage. As the patient inhales air the air sacs expand, break and get damaged, forming a scar tissue. The alveoli turn into large, irregular pockets with holes in them making them less elastic and inefficient.



### 3.How does it affect the organs or parts of the human body?

If the person has emphysema while it develops, the alveoli and lung tissue are destroyed. With this damage, the alveoli cannot support the bronchial tubes. The tubes collapse and cause an abstraction(a blockage) which traps air inside the lungs. Too much air trapped in the lungs can give some patients a barrel-chested appearance.

## 4. How can a person obtain Emphysema?

Emphysema and chronic bronchitis are two conditions that make up chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Smoking is the leading cause of COPD. Air pollution fumes from factories and vehicles, second-hand smoking can cause emphysema. Dust Marijuana smoke and tobacco smoke are common causes of emphysema.

## 5.How can it be detected?

You can have emphysema for many years without noticing any signs or symptoms. The main symptom of emphysema is shortness breath, which usually begins gradually until it starts interfering with daily tasks, even when at rest. If person is aging, sometimes they think they are not of shape, symptoms can be.

- you're go short of breath, you can't climb upstairs.
- your lips or fingernails turn blue.
- you're not mentally alert.

## 6.How can it be prevented?

Emphysema can be prevented by not smoking or stopping the use of tobacco. Avoid places where there is pollution. Always be in a clean environment, because dust can also lead to emphysema. Avoid inhaling fumes from vehicles or factories.



## 7.How can it be treated?

Emphysema is an incurable disease and no treatment is available. However, symptoms can be relieved and progression can be slowed down. Since smoking is usually the main reason, stopping it may impede the progress of the disease. Medications such as the use of bronchodilators, antibiotics to stop infection, steroid aerosol spray, oxygen supply, and surgical procedure to remove the damaged lung tissue can help patients with emphysema.