

DEFINITION

1. **Aspergillosis** is a colonisation of respiratory tissues by the *Aspergillus* species. Bronchopulmonary aspergillosis is usually due to infection by *Aspergillus fumigatus* and is associated with the development of tissue sensitivity which creates an allergy.

CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS

2. Features of the illness include episodic bronchial obstruction, peripheral eosinophilia and immunological changes. Chest radiographs reflect the bronchial location of the disease process with a multiplicity of findings which may be transient or permanent. Diagnosis is made on the evidence of eosinophilia, positive sputum culture for aspergillus, skin testing for sensitivity to the fungus and determination of IgE and *Aspergillus* precipitins.

AETIOLOGY

3. The cause is *Aspergillus* infection and this occurs world-wide. The infections are not considered to be transmissible from human to human.
4. The infection may be limited to a growth on the surface of the respiratory mucosa which creates a mild inflammatory response. Previously damaged respiratory tissue is more vulnerable to colonisation, with the development of fungal balls called aspergillomas in tissue cavities. Allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis develops from *Aspergillus fumigatus* infection and occurs in up to 20% of patients with asthma.

CONCLUSION

5. **Bronchopulmonary aspergillosis** is a condition of infection of lung tissue by the fungus *Aspergillus fumigatus*.

REFERENCE

Drutz DJ. The Mycoses. In: Eds. Wyngaarden James B, Smith Lloyd H. Cecil Textbook of Medicine. 18thEd. 1988. Philadelphia. W B Saunders Company. page 1850.

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