

Asthma - causes, symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, pathology

Asthma comes from the Greek word for panting, which makes sense because it causes chronic inflammation of the airways. People with asthma can have asthma exacerbation or asthma attacks, which are usually triggered by something in the environment. The molecular pathway that leads to asthma is actually pretty complex but it is often initiated by an environmental trigger. There is no cure for asthma but there are treatments available that can manage the symptoms and prevent the development of an asthma attack. Symptoms of asthma include coughing, a feeling of chest tightness, dyspnea or difficulty breathing, and wheezing. The triggering substance that leads to the asthma attack can differ from person to person. Some common triggers include air pollution, like cigarette smoke and car exhaust. Asthma is characterized by chronic inflammation in the lungs as well as asthma exacerbations or attacks. Individuals with more severe forms of asthma might need additional treatments like daily corticosteroids or leukotriene antagonists. In very severe cases, intravenous corticosteroids, magnesium sulfate, and oxygen therapy might be needed.

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