What is EGPA?

Eosinophilic Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis

Formerly known as Churg-Strauss syndrome, EGPA is a condition characterized by asthma, an increase in eosinophils, and inflammation of blood vessels (vasculitis).

Vasculitis is inflammation of blood vessels such as capillaries, veins, or arteries.

Inflamed blood vessels can reduce or stop blood flow, which may cause damage to tissue and organs.

EGPA can result in damage to:

- Lungs
- Heart
- Sinuses
- Gastrointestinal tract
- Skin
- Nerves
- and other parts of the body. It can even be life-threatening for some patients.

Based on global estimates, EGPA likely affects approximately 5,000 people in the U.S.**

Both men and women are affected by EGPA, and the average age of diagnosis is 48.*

EGPA has 3 phases. Not everyone experiences all three phases, and the phases may not occur in the same order:***

- **Chronic**
- **Rare**
- **Difficult to Diagnose**

The main characteristics of EGPA are:

- The development of asthma as an adult
- Allergic rhinitis (hay fever)
- Growth in the nose
- An increase in eosinophils
- Of these, asthma symptoms are the most common.

Eosinophil

A type of white blood cell that is a normal part of the body’s immune system.

To confirm the diagnosis of EGPA, patients may be referred to healthcare providers who specialize in treating vasculitis or eosinophilic conditions, such as allergists, immunologists, pulmonologists, and rheumatologists.

EGPA can be difficult to diagnose because it is uncommon. EGPA is considered present when a person has at least four of the following six:

- Asthma
- Increased number of eosinophils (higher than 10%)
- Nerve damage (numbness and pain in hands or feet)
- Sinus problems
- Pulmonary infiltrates (spots or lesions on a chest X-ray of the lungs)
- Extravascular eosinophils (presence of eosinophils outside a blood vessel)

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