

PULMONARY HYPERTENSION

What is Pulmonary Hypertension?

Pulmonary Hypertension occurs when tiny arteries in the lungs become narrow, creating resistance to the flow of blood in the lungs and causing the heart to work harder.

Primary Pulmonary Hypertension is inherited or occurs for no known reason.

Secondary Pulmonary Hypertension occurs or is caused by another condition.

What Causes Pulmonary Hypertension?

1. Hereditary factors
2. COPD
3. Liver disease
4. Connective tissue diseases (Scleroderma, Lupus)
5. Obstructive sleep apnea
6. Congenital heart defects
7. HIV infection
8. Chronic blood clots
9. Left sided heart failure
10. Living in high altitudes
11. Pulmonary fibrosis
12. Appetite suppressants
13. Chronic use of cocaine or amphetamines

What are the Symptoms?

1. Shortness of Breath
2. Dizziness or Fainting Spells
3. Fatigue
4. Chest Pressure or Pain
5. Racing Pulse
6. Heart Palpitations
7. Swelling (edema) ankles, legs, abdomen
8. Bluish color to your lips and skin (cyanosis)

How is it Diagnosed?

1. Chest x-ray
2. High resolution CT scan of chest
3. Pulmonary function testing
4. Echocardiogram
5. EKG
6. Stress testing
7. Right heart catheterization
8. MRI

What is the Treatment?

1. Supplemental oxygen
2. Diuretics
3. Blood thinners
4. Lung transplant
5. Specialized medications

