WHAT IS CHRONIC THROMBOEMBOLIC PULMONARY HYPERTENSION (CTEPH)?

CTEPH is a form of high blood pressure in the lungs. It is caused by scar-like tissue from blood clots. These blood clots block or narrow the small blood vessels in the lungs.

Many people can be cured of CTEPH with surgery. If not a candidate for surgery, medications and other procedures can reduce symptoms and provide relief.

CTEPH is a rare disease. In the United States, about 5,000 people are diagnosed with CTEPH each year.

Worldwide, CTEPH affects about 8 to 40 people in every million.

Causes of and risk factors for CTEPH

Many people diagnosed with CTEPH have had prior blood clots in the lungs. These are called pulmonary emboli. Risk factors include:

- Having a high risk for blood clots
- Chronic inflammatory disorders
- Having your spleen removed
- Thyroid replacement therapy
- Cancer
- Family history of blood clots

However, roughly 25% of all patients with CTEPH have never been diagnosed with a blood clot.

Symptoms of CTEPH

- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Swelling of the legs
- Dizziness or fainting
- Tightness in the chest or belly
- Heart palpitations
- Chest pain

CTEPH can be hard to diagnose. You need to work with an experienced lung doctor. Learn more at chestfoundation.org/cteph