

Chronic Beryllium Disease (CBD) Information Card

Chronic Beryllium Disease
Awareness

Ask your physician about beryllium toxicity if you may have been occupationally exposed to beryllium and have a chronic respiratory disorder that has lasted more than 3 months, with any of the following:

Symptoms

1. Cough	3. Fatigue
2. Shortness of breath	4. Night Sweats

In addition, if you have been diagnosed with any of the following conditions, you should consider an evaluation for Chronic Beryllium Disease (CBD):

Clinical Conditions

1. Enlarged lymph nodes (adenopathy) seen on Chest X-ray or CT scan
2. Scarring on both lungs (chronic infiltrates) on Chest X-ray or CT scan, called "chronic bilateral pulmonary infiltrates"
3. Lung or skin biopsy reports of granulomatous inflammation
4. Prior diagnosis of chronic skin or pulmonary sarcoidosis

Beryllium Sensitization

Patients who have been diagnosed with "Beryllium Sensitization" (cellular allergy) are asymptomatic and not physically impaired but are at increased risk for the development of CBD. See above.

Should you and your physician want more in depth information, please visit the following link:
<https://ehss.energy.gov/HealthSafety/fwsp/advocacy/cbd/>

FRONT

Chronic Beryllium Disease
Awareness

If you have already been diagnosed with CBD, there are a number of consequential illnesses that may result from CBD, some of which include:

1. Cor Pulmonale	4. Beryllium Dermatitis/ Skin Nodules
2. Pulmonary Hypertension	5. Anxiety and Depression
3. Respiratory Failure	

In most patients with CBD, immunosuppressive medications can stop the progression of the disease and in some cases reverse the abnormalities. Some of these include oral or inhaled corticosteroids, bronchodilators, methotrexate, azathioprine, mycophenolate mofetil, and anti-TNF-alpha inhibitors.

Medications that are used to treat CBD can cause certain consequential conditions or can aggravate other pre-existing medical conditions. If you are being treated for CBD, ask your doctor how the medicine might affect you. Consequential conditions of CBD treatment can include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Infection	7. Cataracts
2. Anxiety and Depression	8. Hyperlipidemia
3. Diabetes and Related Consequences	9. Insomnia
4. Hypertension	10. Gastroesophageal Reflux Disorder
5. Osteoporosis	11. Weight Gain and Obesity
6. Glaucoma	

Early and accurate diagnosis of CBD and related conditions is important in providing an effective treatment.

Should you and your physician want more in depth information, please visit the following link:
<https://ehss.energy.gov/HealthSafety/fwsp/advocacy/cbd/>

BACK