Allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis

Allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis (ABPA) is a disease of the respiratory tract that occurs in response to the presence of a fungus called Aspergillus.

There are many different types of Aspergillus, but Aspergillus fumigatus is the most common to cause disease in humans.

Following the inhalation of Aspergillus spores the following may occur:

**Normal lungs**
no response

**Immunocompromised**
invasive response (eg invasive pulmonary aspergillosis, necrotising aspergillosis). Generally only occurs in people with very significant problems of their immune system.

**Structural lung abnormality**
colonisation of abnormal lung (eg aspergiloma). This disease usually occurs when the lung structure is not normal, such as a cavity in the lung from a previous severe or destructive infection such as tuberculosis.

**Allergic**
allergic disease (eg asthma worsening, ABPA). This form of aspergillus-related disease occurs in individuals who are ‘atopic’ or prone to allergy, particularly those with asthma