



Chemical Pneumonia or chemical pneumonitis is the inflammation of the lungs caused by inhaling chemical fumes or breathing in harmful dust or particles. Inhalation of chemical fumes or particles will cause difficulty in breathing. There are two types of chemical pneumonitis: acute and chronic.



CAUSES

- Working inside the laboratory on a daily basis without proper ventilation.
- Constant exposure to chemicals, hazardous particles such as bleach, fertilizers, cleaning agents, pesticides and fumes from a fire

SYMPTOMS

Acute Chemical Pneumonia

- Abnormal lung sounds
- Burning feeling in the chest
- Cough / difficulty in breathing
- Runny nose
- Watery eyes

Chronic Chemical Pneumonia

- Persistent cough
- Progressive disability
- Rapid breathing
- Delirium or unconsciousness
- Shortness of breath with minimal movement

TREATMENT

- In order to determine how greatly the lungs are affected, chest X-ray, swallowing studies and CT Scan are recommended.
- Medicines that will decrease coughing or reduce inflammation of lungs.



EFA

PREVENTION

When dealing with chemicals inside the laboratory:

- Wear personal protective equipment at all times
- Work inside a fume hood to reduce the risk of chemical exposure.
- Make sure to use the right type of fume hood based on your chemical application.

When dealing with household chemicals:

- Wear masks and gloves.
- Read and follow the instructions carefully and handle it in a well-ventilated area.

