

GRANULOMATOSIS WITH POLYANGIITIS (GPA)

(Formerly Wegener's)

WHAT IS GRANULOMATOSIS WITH POLYANGIITIS (GPA)?

Granulomatosis with polyangiitis is an uncommon disorder that causes inflammation of the blood vessels in your nose, sinuses, throat, lungs and kidneys. It was formerly called Wegener's granulomatosis. It slows blood flow to some of your organs. The affected tissues can develop areas of inflammation called granulomas, which can affect how these organs work.

SYMPTOMS

Signs and symptoms of granulomatosis with polyangiitis might include:

1. Pus-like drainage with crusts from your nose, stuffiness, and nosebleeds
2. Coughing, sometimes with bloody phlegm
3. Shortness of breath or wheezing
4. Fever
5. Fatigue
6. Joint pain
7. Numbness in your limbs, fingers or toes
8. Weight loss
9. Blood in your urine
10. Skin sores, bruising or rashes
11. Eye redness, burning or pain, and vision problems
12. Ear inflammation and hearing problems

TREATMENT

Treatment will vary based on your symptoms, disease activity, organ involvement and lab test results. Medication usually consists of cytotoxic agents using Cyclophosphamide (cytoxan), methotrexate, azathioprine (Imuran), in severe form of the disease or methotrexate in milder form and glucocorticoids (prednisone). Rituximab (Rituxan) is another option for treating severe manifestations of granulomatosis with polyangiitis