

kidneys. The condition also can affect other organs. In addition to inflamed blood vessels, the affected tissues also develop abnormal lumps called granulomas. If granulomas develop in the lungs, they can destroy the lung tissue. The damage can be mistaken for pneumonia or even lung cancer. Symptoms of Wegener's granulomatosis often aren't specific. They can begin slowly with fever, weight loss, and muscle aches. Sometimes the symptoms come on suddenly and progress rapidly, leading to kidney failure. If the lungs are affected, coughing up blood may be the first symptom. The results of certain blood tests can suggest inflammation. These results include a higher than normal ESR; lower than normal hemoglobin and hematocrit levels (which suggest anemia); and higher than normal white blood cell and platelet counts. Another test looks for antiproteinase-3 (an antineutrophil cytoplasmic autoantibody (ANCA)) in the blood. Most people who have active Wegener's granulomatosis will have this antibody. A small portion may have another ANCA known as antimyeloperoxidase-specific ANCA. Having either ANCA antibody isn't enough on its own to make a diagnosis of Wegener