

# Mold exposure at home could increase risk for sarcoidosis

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People who are exposed to mold in their homes could be at an increased risk for sarcoidosis, a chronic inflammatory lung disease.

Researchers from Sweden and Slovenia tested 62 nonsmoking patients with sarcoidosis, 34 of whom had extrapulmonary manifestations (EPM).

Patients were tested for  $\beta$ -glucan, an immune-modulating agent found in fungi, and accompanying inflammatory biomarkers, including interleukin (IL)-6, IL-10, and IL-12.

Serum samples were also obtained from 18 [control subjects](#) with no pulmonary disease or [respiratory symptoms](#).

Results showed that levels of IL-6 and IL-12 were higher among subjects with sarcoidosis as compared with controls, and IL-12 was significantly higher among subjects with EPM. There also was a significant relation between  $\beta$ -glucan and mold/fungi levels in the home.

Researchers conclude that the results further support the hypothesis that exposure to fungi is important for the risk of [sarcoidosis](#).

This study was presented during CHEST 2012, the annual meeting of the [American College of Chest Physicians](#), held October 20 – 25, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Provided by American College of Chest Physicians

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