Bronchiectasis and lung abscess

KEY POINTS

- Bronchiectasis is characterised by permanent dilatation of bronchi due to bronchial damage caused by infection and inflammation.
- High-resolution CT is the key investigation in confirming the diagnosis.
- Investigations for specific causes of bronchiectasis include sweat tests (cystic fibrosis), immunoglobulin levels (hypogammaglobulinaemia), Aspergillus precipitins (allergic aspergillosis) and ciliary tests (primary ciliary dyskinesia).
- Treatment involves chest physiotherapy, antibiotics, inhaled bronchodilators and specific treatment of any underlying cause.
- A lung abscess is a localised collection of pus within a cavitated necrotic lesion in the lung parenchyma.