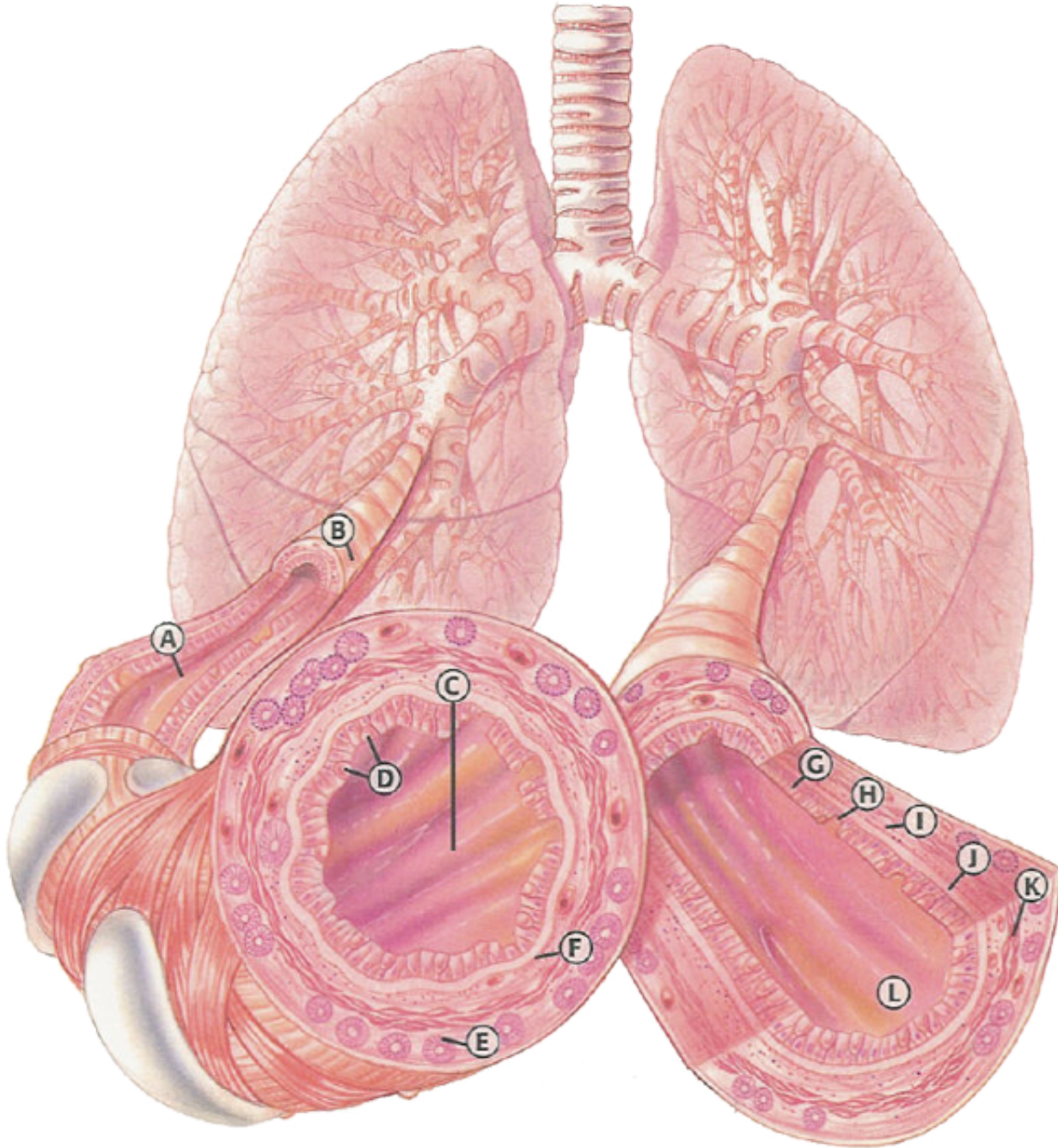




Airways After Inhaled Corticosteroid Treatment



- A. Diameter of lumen increases further
- B. Bronchospasm is alleviated
- C. Bronchospasm is alleviated, further increasing lumen diameter
- D. Goblet Cells

- E. Hypertrophy of mucous glands diminishes
- F. Inflammatory cell infiltration is significantly decreased
- G. Epithelium
- H. Epithelial damage arrested
- I. Mucosal edema is significantly reduced
- J. Thickening of basement membrane is corrected
- K. Smooth muscle relaxes
- L. Hypersecretion of mucus and mucous plugging diminish

Corticosteroids inhibit the inflammatory process by:

- Interfering with production of certain inflammatory mediators, including leukotrienes and prostaglandins
- Preventing the migration and activation of inflammatory cells
- Reducing micro-vascular leakage
- Increasing responsiveness of beta receptors in airway smooth muscles

It should be noted that resolution of the inflammatory condition in chronic asthma with the use of an inhaled corticosteroid takes weeks to months.