

STRIDOR

About Us

Stridor is a high-pitched, wheezing sound caused by disrupted airflow. Stridor may also be called musical breathing or extrathoracic airway obstruction.

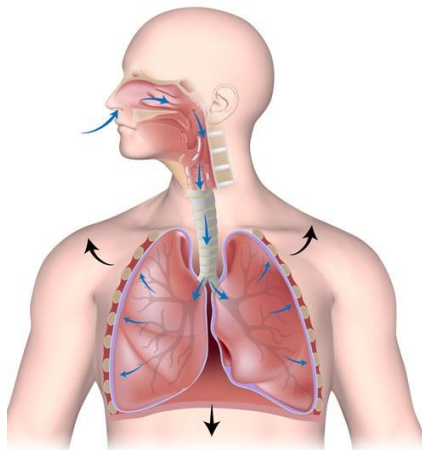
Airflow is usually disrupted by a blockage in the larynx (voice box) or trachea (windpipe). Stridor affects children more often than adults.

Causes

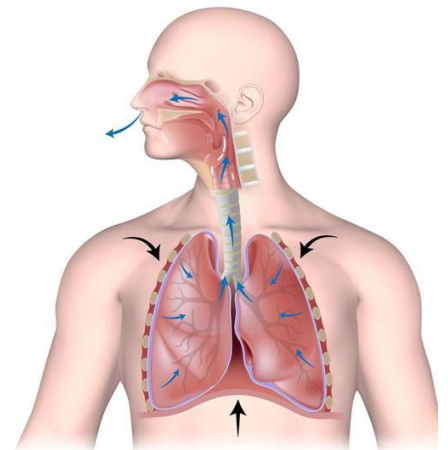
Stridor may be caused by:

- an object blocking the airway
- swelling in your throat or upper airway
- trauma to the airway, such as a fracture in the neck or an object stuck in the nose or throat
- neck surgery
- inhaling smoke
- swallowing a harmful substance that causes damage to the airway
- croup, a viral respiratory infection
- vocal cord paralysis
- bronchitis, an inflammation of the airways leading to the lungs
- tonsilitis, an inflammation of the lymph nodes at the back of the mouth and top of the throat by viruses or bacteria

Inspiration



Expiration



- epiglottitis, an inflammation of the tissue covering the windpipe caused by the *H. influenza* bacterium
- tumors
- abscesses, a collection of pus or fluid
- laryngomalacia

treatment

Don't wait to see if stridor goes away without medical treatment. Visit your doctor and follow their advice. Treatment options depend on the age and health of you or your child, as well as the cause and severity of the stridor.

Your doctor may:

- refer you to an ear, nose, and throat specialist
- provide oral or injected medication to decrease swelling in the airway
- recommend hospitalization or surgery in severe cases
- require more monitoring

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