

Catarrh

Catarrh is inflammation of the mucous membranes in one of the airways or cavities of the body,^{[1][2]} usually with reference to the throat and paranasal sinuses. It can result in a thick exudate of mucus and white blood cells caused by the swelling of the mucous membranes in the head in response to an infection. It is a symptom usually associated with the common cold, pharyngitis, and chesty coughs, but it can also be found in patients with adenoiditis, otitis media, sinusitis or tonsillitis. The phlegm produced by catarrh may either discharge or cause a blockage that may become chronic.

Catarrh	
Other names	Catarrhal inflammation
Pronunciation	/kəˈtɑːr/
Specialty	Pulmonology

The word "catarrh" was widely used in medicine since before the era of medical science, which explains why it has various senses and in older texts may be synonymous with, or vaguely indistinguishable from, common cold, nasopharyngitis, pharyngitis, rhinitis, or sinusitis. The word is no longer as widely used in American medical practice, mostly because more precise words are available for any particular pathosis. Indeed, to the extent that it is still used, it is no longer viewed nosologically as a disease entity but instead as a symptom, a sign, or a syndrome of both. The term "catarrh" is found in medical sources from the United Kingdom.^[3] The word has also been common in the folk medicine of Appalachia, where medicinal plants have been used to treat the inflammation and drainage associated with the condition.^[4]

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Clinical relevance

Because of the human ear's function of regulating the pressure within the head region, catarrh blockage may also cause discomfort during changes in atmospheric pressure.

Etymology

The word "catarrh" comes from 15th-century French *catarrhe*, Latin *catarrhus*, and Greek Ancient Greek: καταρρεῖν^[5] (*katarrhein*): *kata-* meaning "down" and *rhein* meaning "to flow." The *Oxford English Dictionary* quotes Thomas Bowes' translation of Pierre de la Primaudaye's *The [second part of the] French academie* (1594): "Sodainely choked by catarrhes, which like to floods of waters, runne downewards."^[6]

See also

- Allergy
- Hay fever
- Rhinitis
- Rheum

References

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2. "Chronic Catarrh — Its Symptoms, Causes and Effects. — A Few Practical Remarks by Dr. Lighthill, Author of "A Popular Treatise on Deafness", "Letters on Catarrh." No. 34 St. Mark's-Place, New-York. Symptoms of Catarrh. Causes of Catarrh. Treatment of Catarrh. From J.S. Beecher, Esq., firm of Ives, Beecher and Co., No. 98 Front-St. From Maj. Alvin Walker, Paymaster, U.S.A. From W. Larrabee, Esq. - Article" (<https://www.nytimes.com/1865/03/03/news/chronic-catarrh-its-symptoms-causes-effects-few-practical-remarks-dr-lighthill.html?scp=1&sq=catarrh&st=cse>). NYTimes.com. Retrieved November 8, 2011.
3. "Catarrh" (<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Catarrh/Pages/Introduction.aspx>). *NHS Choices*. GOV.UK. February 17, 2016. Retrieved September 20, 2016.
4. "A Guide to Medicinal Plants of Appalachia" (http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/rp/rp_ne138.pdf) (PDF). 1969. Retrieved May 12, 2015.
5. Chisholm, Hugh, ed. (1911). "Catarrh" (https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/1911_Encyclop%C3%A6dia_Britannica/Catarrh). *Encyclopædia Britannica* (11th ed.). Cambridge University Press.
6. "catarrh" (<http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/28774?rskey=r1oXde&result=1#eid>). *OED Online*. Oxford University Press. Retrieved May 12, 2015.

External links

- NHS Choices (<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Catarrh/Pages/Introduction.aspx?url=Pages/what-is-it.aspx&r=1&title=Catarrh+-+Introduction>)

Classification	ICD-9-CM: 460 (http://www.icd9data.com/getICD9Code.aspx?icd9=460) ·
	DiseasesDB: 26380 (http://www.diseasesdatabase.com/ddb26380.htm)

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