

# Tracheitis

**Tracheitis** is an inflammation of the trachea.<sup>[1]</sup> Although the trachea is usually considered part of the lower respiratory tract, in ICD-10 tracheitis is classified under "acute upper respiratory infections".

# Contents

## Symptoms

## Causes

## Diagnosis

## Treatment

## References

## External links


## Symptoms

- Increasing deep or barking croup cough following a recent upper respiratory infection
- Crowing sound when inhaling (inspiratory stridor)
- 'Scratchy' feeling in the throat
- Chest pain
- Fever
- Ear ache
- Headache
- Dizziness (light headed)
- Labored breathing

## Causes

Bacterial tracheitis is a bacterial infection of the trachea and is capable of producing airway obstruction.

One of the most common causes is *Staphylococcus aureus* and often follows a recent viral upper respiratory infection. Bacterial tracheitis is a rare complication of influenza infection.<sup>[2]</sup> It is the most serious in young children, possibly because of the relatively small size of the trachea that gets easily blocked by swelling. The most frequent sign is the rapid development of stridor. It is occasionally confused with croup. If it is inflamed, a condition known as tracheitis can occur. In this condition there can be inflammation of the linings of the trachea. A condition called tracheo-bronchitis can be caused, when the mucous membrane of the trachea and bronchi swell. A collapsed trachea is formed as a result of defect in the cartilage, that makes the cartilage unable to support the trachea and results in dry hacking

<b>Tracheitis</b>	
<b>Other names</b>	Inflammation of the trachea
<p><b>Anatomy of the Trachea</b></p> <p>The diagram illustrates the anatomy of the trachea and its connection to the lungs. The trachea is a vertical tube with orange tracheal cartilages and a white internal ridge (carina). It branches into primary bronchi, which further divide into secondary bronchi. The lungs are shown in pink, with labels for the root of the right and left lungs and the lung tissue. The larynx is at the top, and the primary and secondary bronchi are at the bottom.</p>	
<b>Anatomy of the trachea</b>	
<b>Specialty</b>	Pulmonology 

cough. In this condition there can be inflammation of the linings of the trachea. If the connective nerve tissues in the trachea degenerate it causes tracheomalacia. Infections to the trachea can cause tracheomegaly.

## Diagnosis

---

The diagnosis of tracheitis requires the direct vision of exudates or pseudomembranes on the trachea. X-ray findings may include subglottic narrowing. The priority is to secure the patient's airway, and to rule out croup and epiglottitis which may be fatal. Suspicion for tracheitis should be high in cases of onset of airway obstruction that do not respond to racemic epinephrine.

## Treatment

---

In more severe cases, it is treated by administering intravenous antibiotics and may require admission to an intensive care unit (ICU) for intubation and supportive ventilation if the airway swelling is severe. During an intensive care admission, various methods of invasive and non-invasive monitoring may be required, which may include ECG monitoring, oxygen saturation, capnography and arterial blood pressure monitoring.

## References

---

1. "Tracheitis ([https://web.archive.org/web/20090628224336/http://www.mercksource.com/pp/us/cns/cns\\_hl\\_dorlands\\_split.jsp?pg=/ppdocs/us/common/dorlands/dorland/eight/000109827.htm](https://web.archive.org/web/20090628224336/http://www.mercksource.com/pp/us/cns/cns_hl_dorlands_split.jsp?pg=/ppdocs/us/common/dorlands/dorland/eight/000109827.htm))" at *Dorland's Medical Dictionary*
2. medicine, s cecil. *Goldman* (24th ed.). Philadelphia: Elsevier Saunders. p. 1326. ISBN 978-1-4377-2788-3.

## External links

---

**Classification** **ICD-10:** J04.1 (<http://apps.who.int/classifications/icd10/browse/2016/en#/J04.1>), J42 (<http://apps.who.int/classifications/icd10/browse/2016/en#/J42>) • **ICD-9-CM:** 464.1 (<http://www.icd9data.com/getICD9Code.aspx?icd9=464.1>) • **MeSH:** D014136 ([https://www.nlm.nih.gov/cgi/mesh/2015/MB\\_cgi?field=uid&term=D014136](https://www.nlm.nih.gov/cgi/mesh/2015/MB_cgi?field=uid&term=D014136))

**External**

**MedlinePlus:**

**resources**

000988 (<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000988.htm>) •

**eMedicine:**

ped/200 (<https://emedicine.medscape.com/ped/200-overview>)

---

Retrieved from "<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Tracheitis&oldid=927555674>"

---

**This page was last edited on 23 November 2019, at 06:44 (UTC).**

Text is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License](#); additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.