

Choanal atresia

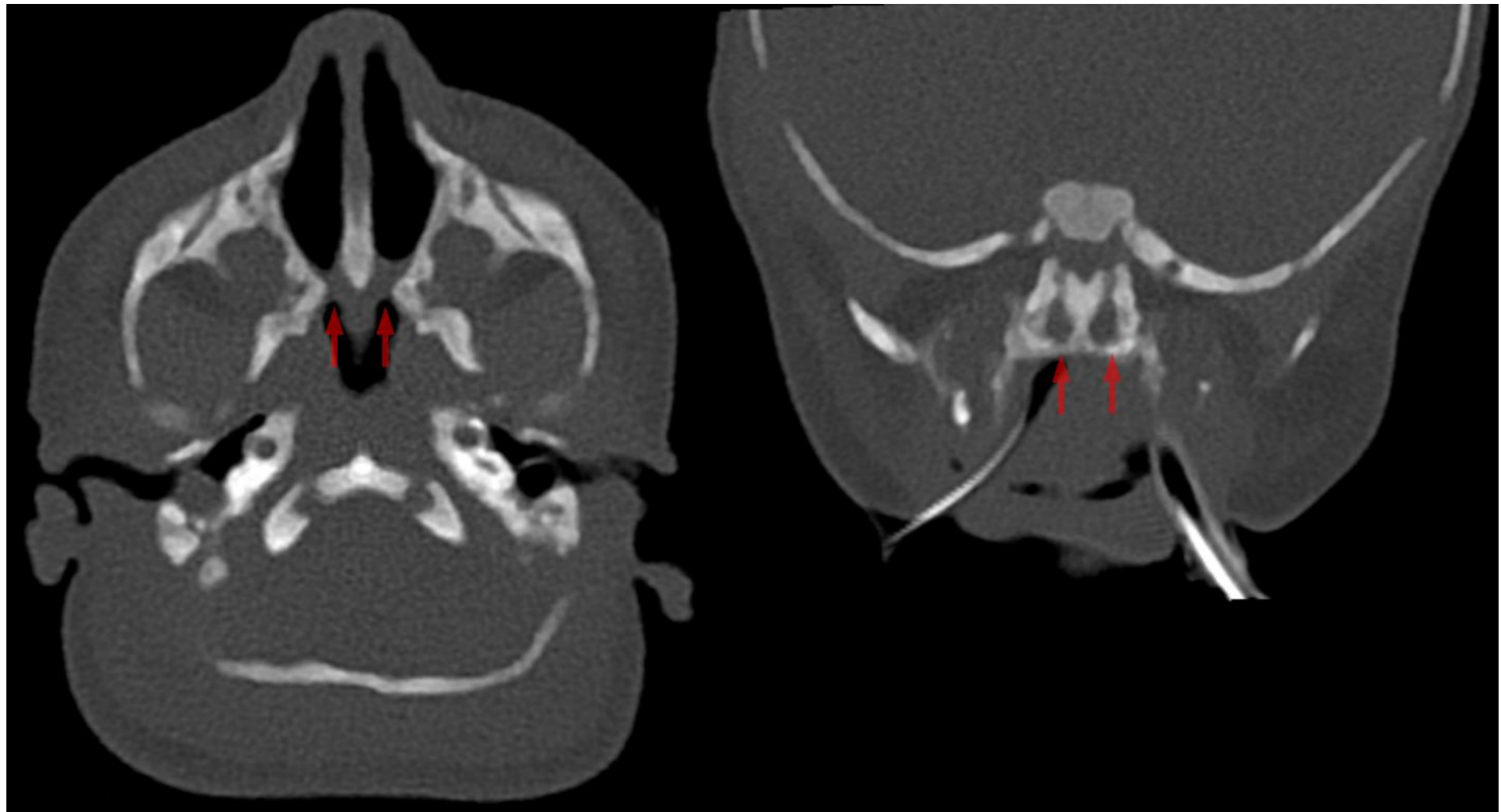
Choanal atresia

- a [congenital disorder](#) where the back of the nasal passage ([choana](#)) is blocked, usually by abnormal [bony](#) or soft tissue (membranous) due to failed hole development of the nasal fossae during [prenatal development](#). It causes persistent [rhinorrhea](#), and with bilateral choanal atresia and obstructed airway that can cause [cyanosis](#) and [hypoxia](#).
- **Presentation**
- Choanal atresia can be [unilateral or bilateral](#).
- A unilateral choanal atresia may not be detected until much later in life because the baby manages to get along with only one nostril available for breathing.^[1] Symptoms are minor, including persistent [rhinorrhea](#) (mainly normal [mucus](#)) and chronic [sinusitis](#).
- Bilateral choanal atresia is a life-threatening condition because the [baby](#) will be unable to breathe directly after [birth](#) as babies are [obligate nasal breathers](#) (they mainly use their noses to breathe).^[1] In some cases, this may present as [cyanosis](#) while the baby is feeding, because the oral air passages are blocked by the tongue, further restricting the airway.^[2] Cyanosis may improve when the baby cries, as the oral airway is used.^[1] These babies may require airway [resuscitation](#) soon after birth

Associated conditions

- Choanal atresia is associated with a higher risk of other airway problems, including:
 - [tracheomalacia](#).^[1]
 - [laryngomalacia](#).^[1]
 - [subglottic stenosis](#).^[1]
- Sometimes, babies born with choanal atresia also have other abnormalities:
 - [coloboma](#).^[1]
 - [heart defects](#) and [cardiovascular disease](#).^[1]
 - [intellectual disability](#).^[1]
 - growth impairment.^[1]
 - genital hypoplasia.^[1]
 - [CHARGE syndrome](#).^[1]

- Also any condition that causes significant depression of the nasal bridge or midface retraction can be associated with choanal atresia. Examples include the [craniosynostosis](#) syndromes such as [Crouzon syndrome](#), [Pfeiffer syndrome](#), [Treacher Collins syndrome](#), [Apert syndrome](#)



- Choanal atresia is diagnosed based on the inability to place a nasal [catheter](#), and [radiology](#) results (particularly [CT scans](#)). Treatment involves maintaining an open airway, and may involve [surgery](#) to reopen the airway, potentially with a [stent](#).



THANK
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