Proofed 12-16-09 ma

Proofed 11-28-07dlh

Sore throat in children: Symptom Checker

**DocID**

No DocID – not contained in FarCry

**Title**

Sore throat

**Feature Title**

Sore throat

**List Title**

Sore throat

**Content is Contracted**

No

**Licensable**

No

**Searchable**

No

**Target pub date**

01/19/2010

**Review in months?**

24

**MCV Main tag**

**MCV Other tag(s)**

Content Packages > Symptom checker mobile > Child > Head and neck

**MCV Related tag(s)**

**Primary Location**

Symptom Checker

**Tease**

Sore throat is common during childhood. Identify possible causes based on your child's symptoms.

**Abstract**

Find possible common causes of sore throat in children. See our Symptom Checker.

**Benefit Summary**

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**Source**

**Keywords**

N/A

**SEO Title**

N/A

**SEO URL Keyword**

sore-throat

**SEO Description**

N/A

**Billboard**

**Billboard Large**

**Internal comments**

**Alternate Titles**

**FeatureID**

**Gender**

**Age**

Child

**ENTER IN FARCRY:**

**When to get medical help**

Get emergency care if your child has a sore throat and also: (1; 2, p. 124; 14)

Has difficulty breathing

Is drooling or has difficulty swallowing

Cannot tolerate liquids

See your doctor as soon as possible if your child's sore throat lasts longer than one week or is accompanied by:

Fever of 101 F (38.3 C) or higher

Red, swollen tonsils

White patches or pus on the back of the throat

Swollen lymph nodes in the neck

Blood in saliva or phlegm

Skin rash

Hoarse voice

Signs of dehydration, such as no wet diapers or urine production in eight hours, dry skin, dry mouth, or crying without tears

**Self-care strategies**

The following tips may help soothe your child's sore throat: (3, 4)

Offer plenty of fluids.

Encourage your child to rest his or her voice.

Use a humidifier or sit with your child in a steamy bathroom.

Offer an older child hard candy or throat lozenges.

Offer an older child warm salt water to gargle.

Help your child avoid smoke and other air pollutants.

Give your child acetaminophen (Tylenol, others) or ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin, others) — not aspirin — as directed on the label.

**More Information**

Sore throat DS00526

**END OF FARCRY TEXT**

Find possible causes of sore throat in children based on specific factors. Check one or more factors on this page that apply to your child's symptom.

**Accompanied by**

Blue-colored skin or lips

Chills or sweats

Cough

Difficult or painful swallowing

Difficult or raspy breathing

Enlarged, tender lymph nodes in neck

Fever

Headache or facial pain

Hoarse or muffled voice

Mild body aches

Red, swollen tonsils

Runny or stuffy nose

Skin rash

Sneezing

Watery eyes

White patches or pus on tonsils

Yellow or greenish phlegm or discharge from nose

**Possible causes**

These diseases and conditions match at least one of the factors you selected. Those with the most matches are listed first.

DS00170 Acute sinusitis (5, 15)

Accompanied by cough

Accompanied by fever

Accompanied by headache or facial pain

Accompanied by runny or stuffy nose

Accompanied by yellow or greenish phlegm or discharge from nose

DS00056 Common cold (6)

Accompanied by cough

Accompanied by headache or facial pain

Accompanied by mild body aches

Accompanied by runny or stuffy nose

Accompanied by sneezing

Accompanied by watery eyes

Accompanied by yellow or greenish phlegm or discharge from nose

DS00529 Epiglottitis (7)

Accompanied by blue-colored skin or lips

Accompanied by difficult or painful swallowing

Accompanied by difficult or raspy breathing

Accompanied by fever

Accompanied by hoarse or muffled voice

DS00174 Hay fever (8)

Accompanied by cough

Accompanied by headache or facial pain

Accompanied by runny or stuffy nose

Accompanied by sneezing

Accompanied by watery eyes

DS00081 Influenza (flu) (9)

Accompanied by chills or sweats

Accompanied by cough

Accompanied by fever

Accompanied by headache or facial pain

Accompanied by mild body aches

Accompanied by runny or stuffy nose

Accompanied by sneezing

Accompanied by yellow or greenish phlegm or discharge from nose

DS00366 Laryngitis (10)

Accompanied by cough

Accompanied by hoarse or muffled voice

DS00352 Mononucleosis (11)

Accompanied by chills or sweats

Accompanied by enlarged, tender lymph nodes in neck

Accompanied by fever

Accompanied by headache or facial pain

Accompanied by red, swollen tonsils

DS00260 Strep throat (12)

Accompanied by difficult or painful swallowing

Accompanied by enlarged, tender lymph nodes in neck

Accompanied by fever

Accompanied by headache or facial pain

Accompanied by red, swollen tonsils

Accompanied by skin rash

Accompanied by white patches or pus on tonsils

DS00273 Tonsillitis (13)

Accompanied by difficult or painful swallowing

Accompanied by enlarged, tender lymph nodes in neck

Accompanied by fever

Accompanied by headache or facial pain

Accompanied by hoarse or muffled voice

Accompanied by red, swollen tonsils

Accompanied by skin rash

Accompanied by white patches or pus on tonsils

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PAGE 5