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Tracheal Disorders

Also called: Windpipe disorders

Your trachea, or windpipe, is one part of your airway system. Airways are pipes that carry oxygen-rich air to your lungs. They also carry carbon dioxide, a waste gas, out of your lungs.

When you inhale, air travels from your nose, through your larynx, and down your windpipe. The windpipe splits into two bronchi [<https://medlineplus.gov/bronchialdisorders.html>] that enter your lungs.



Problems with the trachea include narrowing, inflammation, and some inherited conditions. You may need a procedure called a tracheostomy to help you breathe if you have swallowing problems, or have conditions that affect coughing or block your airways. You might also need a tracheostomy if you are in critical care [<https://medlineplus.gov/criticalcare.html>] and need to be on a breathing machine.

NIH: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Start Here

- Larynx & Trachea [<https://training.seer.cancer.gov/anatomy/respiratory/passages/larynx.html>]  (National Cancer Institute)

Diagnosis and Tests

- Bronchoscopy and Bronchoalveolar Lavage (BAL) [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/bronchoscopy-and-bronchoalveolar-lavage-bal/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/broncoscopia-con-lavado-broncoalveolar/>]
- Tests for Lung Disease [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/lung-tests>]  (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/es/salud/pruebas-pulmonares>]
- X-Ray Exam: Neck [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/xray-neck.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/xray-neck.html>]

Treatments and Therapies

- Tracheostomy - series -- Normal anatomy [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100043_1.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/esp_presentations/100043_1.htm]

Living With

- Choking: First Aid [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/first-aid/first-aid-choking/basics/ART-20056637?p=1>]
(Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/first-aid/first-aid-choking/basics/art-20056637?p=1>]
- Living with an Ostomy [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/managing-cancer/treatment-types/surgery/ostomies.html>]
(American Cancer Society)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/como-sobrellevar-el-cancer/tipos-de-tratamiento/cirugia/ostomias.html>]


Related Issues

- Vocal Fold Paralysis [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/vocal-fold-paralysis>]

 (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)

Also in Spanish [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/es/espanol/paralisis-de-las-cuerdas-vocales>]

Clinical Trials


- ClinicalTrials.gov: Tracheal Diseases [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Tracheal+Diseases%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles


References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Laryngotracheal Pathologies and Symptoms Associated to Airway Management of Critically Ill... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40534324>]
- Article: Application value of fibro-bronchoscopic cryosurgery combined with medication in the treatment... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40281601>]
- Article: Primary vs. secondary closure of tracheocutaneous fistulas: A prospective cohort study. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40043630>]
- Tracheal Disorders -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Tracheal+Diseases%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+2+Years%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29>]

Find an Expert

- American Lung Association [<https://www.lung.org/>]
- Find an ENT (Ear, Nose, and Throat Specialist) [<https://www.enthealth.org/find-ent/>]
(American Academy of Otolaryngology--Head and Neck Surgery)
- National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/>] 

Children

- Bacterial Tracheitis [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/children-s-health-issues/respiratory-disorders-in-infants-and-children/bacterial-tracheitis>] (Merck & Co., Inc.)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/es-us/hogar/salud-infantil/trastornos-respiratorios-en-los-lactantes-y-los-ni%C3%B1os/traque%C3%ADtis-bacteriana>]
- Croup: MedlinePlus Health Topic [<https://medlineplus.gov/croup.html>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/croup.html>]
- Esophageal Atresia and Tracheoesophageal Fistula [<https://familydoctor.org/condition/esophageal-atresia-and-tracheoesophageal-fistula/?adfree=true>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/condicion/atresia-esofagica-y-fistula-traqueoesofagica-es/?adfree=true>]
- Tracheoesophageal fistula repair - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100103_1.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/esp_presentations/100103_1.htm]
- Tracheostomy (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/tracheostomy.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/tracheostomy.html>]

Patient Handouts

- Blockage of upper airway [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000067.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000067.htm>]
- Swallowing problems [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000065.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000065.htm>]

- Tracheitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000988.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000988.htm>]
- Tracheoesophageal fistula and esophageal atresia repair [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002934.htm>]
(Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/002934.htm>]
- Tracheomalacia - acquired [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007310.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007310.htm>]
- Tracheomalacia - congenital [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001084.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001084.htm>]
- Tracheostomy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002955.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/002955.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Blockage of upper airway [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000067.htm>]

Endotracheal intubation [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003449.htm>]

Learning about ventilators [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000458.htm>]

Swallowing problems [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000065.htm>]

Tracheal rupture [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001092.htm>]

Tracheitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000988.htm>]

Tracheoesophageal fistula and esophageal atresia repair [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002934.htm>]

Tracheoesophageal fistula repair - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100103_1.htm]

Tracheomalacia - acquired [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007310.htm>]

Tracheomalacia - congenital [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001084.htm>]

Tracheostomy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002955.htm>]

Tracheostomy - series -- Normal anatomy [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100043_1.htm]

Tracheostomy care [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000076.htm>]

Tracheostomy tube - eating [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000464.htm>]

Tracheostomy tube - speaking [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000465.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Choking [<https://medlineplus.gov/choking.html>]

Croup [<https://medlineplus.gov/croup.html>]

Throat Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/throatdisorders.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Tracheal Disorders* is the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute [<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/>]

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