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Throat Disorders

Also called: Pharyngeal disorders

Your throat is a tube that carries food to your esophagus and air to your windpipe and larynx. The technical name for your throat is the pharynx.

Throat problems are common. You've probably had a **sore throat** [<https://medlineplus.gov/sorethroat.html>] . The cause is usually a viral infection, but other causes include allergies, infection with **strep** [<https://medlineplus.gov/streptococcalinfections.html>] bacteria or the leaking of stomach acids back up into the esophagus, called GERD [<https://medlineplus.gov/gerd.html>] .

Other problems that affect the throat include:

- Tonsillitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/tonsillitis.html>] - inflammation of the tonsils
- Cancer [<https://medlineplus.gov/throatcancer.html>]
- Croup [<https://medlineplus.gov/croup.html>] - inflammation, usually in small children, which causes a barking cough
- Laryngitis - swelling of the voice box, which can cause a hoarse voice or loss of voice

Most throat problems are minor and go away on their own. Treatments, when needed, depend on the problem.



Start Here

- Throat Problems (Symptom Checker) [<https://familydoctor.org/symptom/throat-problems/?adfree=true>]
(American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/sintoma/problemas-de-la-garganta/?adfree=true>]

Symptoms

- Neck Swelling (Symptom Checker) [<https://familydoctor.org/symptom/neck-swelling/?adfree=true>]
(American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/sintoma/hinchazon-del-cuello/?adfree=true>]
- Throat Problems (Symptom Checker) [<https://familydoctor.org/symptom/throat-problems/?adfree=true>]
(American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/sintoma/problemas-de-la-garganta/?adfree=true>]

Diagnosis and Tests

- Barium Swallow [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/barium-swallow/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/transito-esofagogastroduodenal/>]
- Strep A Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/strep-a-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-estreptococos-a/>]
- Strep Test: Throat Culture (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/labtest11.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/labtest11.html>]


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

- Mouth Dryness or Thick Saliva [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/managing-cancer/side-effects/eating-problems/dry-mouth.html>] (American Cancer Society)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/como-sobrellevar-el-cancer/efectos-secundarios/problemas-alimentarios/resequedad-de-la-boca.html>]




Related Issues

- Candidiasis Basics [<https://www.cdc.gov/candidiasis/about/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Post-Nasal Drip [<https://www.enthealth.org/conditions/post-nasal-drip/>]
(American Academy of Otolaryngology--Head and Neck Surgery)
- Recurrent Respiratory Papillomatosis or Laryngeal Papillomatosis [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/recurrent-respiratory-papillomatosis>]  (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/es/espanol/papilomatosis-respiratoria-recurrente>]

Specifics

- About Strep Throat [<https://www.cdc.gov/group-a-strep/about/strep-throat.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cdc.gov/group-a-strep/es/about/acerca-de-la-infeccion-de-garganta-por-estreptococos.html>]
- Croup: MedlinePlus Health Topic [<https://medlineplus.gov/croup.html>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/croup.html>]
- Epiglottitis [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/epiglottitis/symptoms-causes/syc-20372227?p=1>]
(Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Hoarseness [<https://www.enthealth.org/conditions/hoarseness/>] (American Academy of Otolaryngology--Head and Neck Surgery)
- Laryngitis [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/laryngitis/symptoms-causes/syc-20374262?p=1>]
(Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Laryngoceles [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/ear-nose-and-throat-disorders/laryngeal-disorders/laryngoceles>]
(Merck & Co., Inc.)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/es-us/hogar/trastornos-otorrinolaringol%C3%B3gicos/trastornos-de-la-laringe/laringoceles>]

Clinical Trials

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


Journal Articles

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


- Article: Surgical treatment of first branchial cleft anomalies using retrograde facial nerve... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40694114>]
- Article: Applying deep learning techniques to identify tonsilloliths in panoramic radiography. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40634633>]
- Article: Deep learning detects retropharyngeal edema on MRI in patients with acute... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40536731>]

Throat Disorders -- see more articles [[https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Pharyngeal+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+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+\]](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Pharyngeal+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+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+)]

Find an Expert

- American Academy of Otolaryngology--Head and Neck Surgery [<https://www.entnet.org/>]
- Find an ENT (Ear, Nose, and Throat Specialist) [<https://www.enthealth.org/find-ent/>]
(American Academy of Otolaryngology--Head and Neck Surgery)
- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov>] 

Children

- GERD and LPR [<https://www.enthealth.org/conditions/gerd-and-lpr/>]
(American Academy of Otolaryngology--Head and Neck Surgery)
- Retropharyngeal Abscess (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/retropharyngeal-abscess.html>]
(Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/retropharyngeal-abscess.html>]
- Scarlet Fever (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/scarlet-fever.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/scarlet-fever.html>]
- Strep Throat (For Kids) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/strep-throat.html>]  (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/kids/strep-throat.html>]
- Strep Throat in Kids and Teens [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/strep-throat.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/strep-throat.html>]
- When Is a Sore Throat a More Serious Infection? [<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/ear-nose-throat/pages/When-a-Sore-Throat-is-a-More-Serious-Infection.aspx>] (American Academy of Pediatrics)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.healthychildren.org/spanish/health-issues/conditions/ear-nose-throat/paginas/when-a-sore-throat-is-a-more-serious-infection.aspx>]

Teenagers

- Strep Throat [<https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/strep-throat.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/teens/strep-throat.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>]
- Epiglottitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000605.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000605.htm>]
- Glossopharyngeal neuralgia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001636.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001636.htm>]
- Herpangina [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000969.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000969.htm>]
- Laryngitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001385.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001385.htm>]
- Laryngoscopy and nasolaryngoscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007507.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007507.htm>]
- Retropharyngeal abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000984.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000984.htm>]
- Strep throat [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000639.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000639.htm>]

- Throat swab culture [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003746.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003746.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

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

Epiglottitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000605.htm>]

Glossopharyngeal neuralgia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001636.htm>]

Herpangina [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000969.htm>]

Laryngitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001385.htm>]

Laryngoscopy and nasolaryngoscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007507.htm>]

Oropharynx lesion biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003850.htm>]

Retropharyngeal abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000984.htm>]

Strep throat [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000639.htm>]

Throat swab culture [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003746.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Adenoids [<https://medlineplus.gov/adenoids.html>]

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

Mouth Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/mouthdisorders.html>]

Sore Throat [<https://medlineplus.gov/sorethroat.html>]

Speech and Communication Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/speechandcommunicationdisorders.html>]

Swallowing Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/swallowingdisorders.html>]

Throat Cancer [<https://medlineplus.gov/throatcancer.html>]

Tonsillitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/tonsillitis.html>]

Voice Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/voicedisorders.html>]

The primary NIH organization for research on *Throat Disorders* is the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/>]

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