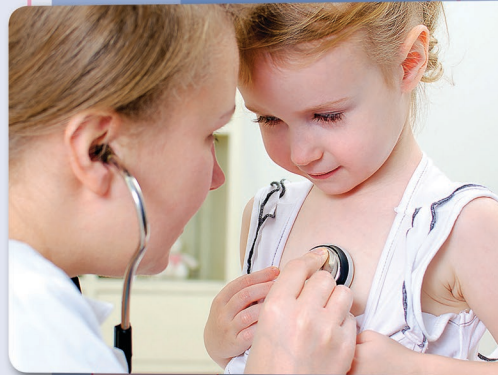


Wheezing



Causes

- Asthma
- Breathing a foreign object into the lungs
- Bronchiectasis
- Bronchiolitis
- Conchitis
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), especially when a respiratory infection is present
- Gastroesophageal reflux disease
- Heart failure (cardiac asthma)
- Insect sting that causes an allergic reaction
- Medications (particularly aspirin)
- Pneumonia
- Whooping cough
- Viral infection, especially in infants younger than age 2



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What to Expect at Your Office Visit

The doctor or nurse will perform a physical examination and ask questions about your medical history and symptoms, including:

- When did the wheezing begin?
- How long does it last?
- When and how often does it occur?
- Is it worse at night or in the early morning?
- What does the wheezing sound like?
- Does it make breathing difficult?
- What seems to cause it?
 - Eating certain foods?
 - Taking certain medications?
- Do any of the following things make it worse?
 - Being around pollens, insects, dust, chemicals (perfumes, cosmetics)
 - Being in cold air
 - Exercise
 - Sickness (such as a cold or the flu)
 - Stress
- Does it go away without treatment?
- What helps relieve it?
 - Rest?
 - Medications such as bronchodilators?
- Do you have any other symptoms, such as:
 - Bluish color to lips or nails
 - Coughing
 - Fever
 - Loss of consciousness
 - Loss of voice



- Panic or confusion
- Puffy, red eyes
- Stuffy nose
- Swelling of the lips or tongue
- Did you have an episode of choking?
- Did you have an insect bite?
- Do you have a history of asthma or allergies?
- What medications do you take?
- Have you been around tobacco smoke?
- Have you recently been sick?

The physical examination may include listening to the lung sounds (auscultation). If your child is the one with symptoms, the doctor will make sure he or she did not swallow a foreign object.

Tests that may be done include:

- Blood work, possibly including arterial blood gases
- Chest x-ray
- Lung function tests

A hospital stay may be needed if:

- Breathing is particularly difficult
- Medicines need to be given through a vein (IV)
- Supplemental oxygen is required
- The person needs to be closely watched by medical personnel