



SERVIZIO SANITARIO REGIONALE
EMILIA-ROMAGNA

Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale di Reggio Emilia
IRCCS Istituto in tecnologie avanzate e modelli assistenziali in oncologia

- If the treatment works, the cough will become less constant and a bit less dry, and the noise made during breathing (squeaking) will disappear.

- If necessary, you can give medications that lower fever.

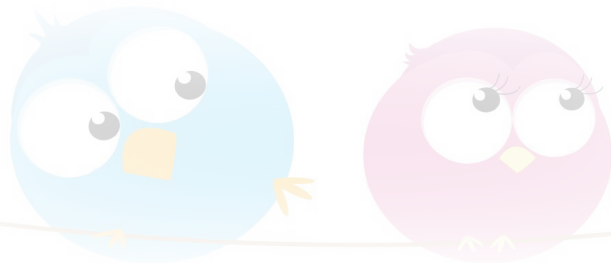
- If the child does not improve within 30 minutes - 1 hour, contact your paediatrician.

When to go to the emergency room

- If your child salivates excessively and has difficulty speaking and swallowing, and has a high fever

- If your child has dyspnea (shortness of breath) and/or becomes pale or cyanotic (a bluish tinge in the lips and fingertips).

- If all the measures taken at home have proven ineffective and you cannot get in touch with your paediatrician.



Laryngitis with "barking" cough

Informative pamphlet written and shared by primary care paediatricians and hospital-based paediatricians of the healthcare authority Azienda USL - IRCCS of Reggio Emilia



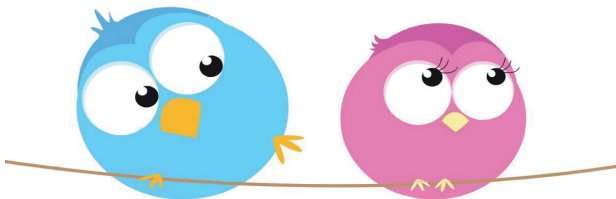
Introduction

Laryngitis is an inflammation of the larynx due to infectious factors or irritants that cause the larynx (throat) to swell, with a barking cough (like a dog or a seal) especially in young children and hoarseness in older ones.

Its frequency increases if the child is exposed to passive smoke, even second hand smoke.

It mainly occurs during a child's first few years, starting at 3 months, but may easily recur until adolescence.

It appears suddenly and usually at night, and is sometimes preceded by flu-like symptoms such as fever, cold and cough. Although it is generally a mild and self-limiting problem, there may sometimes be a significant obstruction to the upper airways, with significant breathing difficulties.



What are the symptoms?

- Sudden appearance - often at night - of a barking or metallic (*"dog-like" or "seal-like"*) cough.
- Noise (squeaking) when the child inhales, which gets worse with crying.
- Difficulty inhaling, with more frequent breaths and resulting agitation.
- Hoarseness.
- Occasionally, a fever or cold.

What to do

- Calm your child, because crying and anxiety increase the rate of breathing, which make the respiratory obstruction and air hunger worse.
- Bring your child to a humid area (such as a bathroom with the hot water taps open, the kitchen with pots of water boiling on the stove).
- If your child has already had episodes of laryngitis with barking cough in the past, administer cortisone in aerosol form and/or by mouth, as previously prescribed by your paediatrician.

