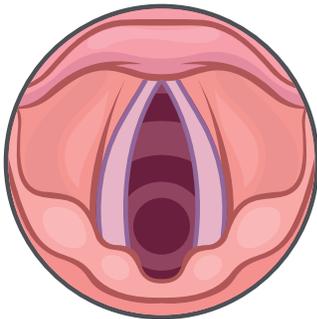


LARYNGOMALACIA

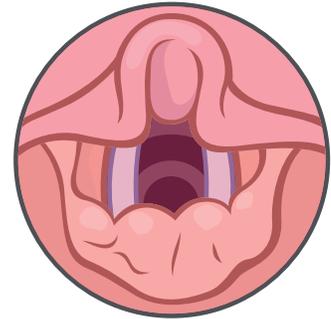
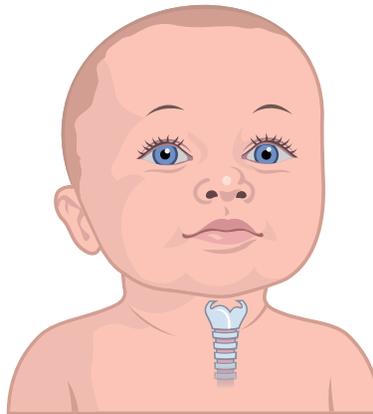
Laryngomalacia is the most common condition causing stridor in young children. Stridor is the sound produced by turbulent airflow as air passes through a narrowing in the respiratory tract. In the case of laryngomalacia, this turbulence is caused by “floppiness” of the immature cartilage that makes up the voicebox, or larynx.

What symptoms does a child with laryngomalacia have?

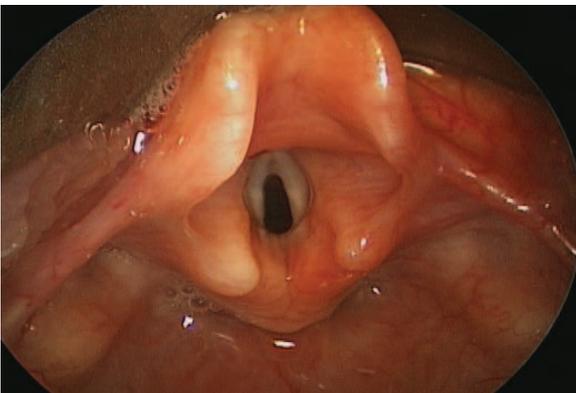
The most common symptom is stridor, which sounds like a high-pitched squeaking noise with inspiration. This usually starts at about a week or two of life and worsens over several months. This can be worse when children are on their backs and can also be associated with choking with feeding.



Normal Larynx



Laryngomalacia



Common Laryngomalacia Questions

How common is laryngomalacia?

Laryngomalacia is the most common cause of stridor in infants and affects about 1 out of every 2000-3000 children.

Is this condition dangerous? Will my baby be ok?

The vast majority of cases (80-90%) resolve with supportive care during the first year of life. The stridor sound can persist for a period after that in some children. The most important thing is making sure that your child has appropriate medical care and support during this time.

Are there treatments for laryngomalacia?

This condition is usually benign and resolves on its own. In the most severe cases that feature airway obstruction or failure to thrive, sometimes surgical intervention is needed. There are no medications to treat laryngomalacia but sometimes dietary changes for the child are warranted.

Why does laryngomalacia happen?

The human voice box is made from cartilage, like your external ear. It functions to produce our voice, but also serves to protect our voice box from things going down the “wrong way”. In babies and toddlers the cartilage is particularly weak and floppy and this can cause blockage of air entering.

What are some of the reasons I should call my doctor?

If your child with laryngomalacia is showing signs of trouble breathing, turning blue (cyanosis), having their ribs/chest cave in with inspiration (retractions) call your physician immediately or call 911. If your child is struggling to feed or failing to thrive, please call your physician.