

Pediatric Wheeze

Bronchiolitis

Definition:

- First episode wheeze in infants
- Acute infectious syndrome caused by viral LRTI

Symptoms:

- Rhinitis, cough, tachypnea, accessory muscle use, wheeze, crackles
- Symptoms will change from hour to hour

Clinical diagnosis:

- No work-up advised

Treatment:

- Ibuprofen 10 mg/kg TID
- Acetaminophen 15 mg/kg QID
- Nasal saline and nasal suction
- Maintain oral hydration

Refer to the ED for urgent assessment if:

- Risk factors for severe disease (immunodeficiency, history of premature birth, age less than 8 weeks, underlying cardiopulmonary disease)
- Child appears “sick” despite ibuprofen and/or acetaminophen (evidence of dehydration, RR >60, oxygen sat <90% on room air, marked work of breathing, lethargy)

Asthma

- ≥2 wheezing episodes occurring age <1 should raise the suspicion of asthma and prompt consideration of outpatient referral to a specialist for evaluation
- Terms such as *bronchospasm*, *reactive airways disease*, *wheezy bronchitis* and *happy wheezer* should be abandoned

Calculate [PRAM score](#):

- If score <4 and oxygen saturation >90% on room air, prescribe SABA, ICS, and consider oral steroid. Utilize asthma action plan
- If >4 or appears *sick*, **refer to the ED** for urgent assessment

Resources

- [Differentiating Bronchiolitis from Asthma in Infants/Toddlers](#)
- [LGH Pediatric Asthma Clinic](#): Phone (604) 984-5801
- [PRAM score calculator](#)

