

Expiration: tachypnea, persistent coughing, high-pitched wheezing, increased respiratory effort

S/sx present

**LOWER AIRWAY OBSTRUCTION**  
If s/sx heard on inspiration, obstruction is severe

Shortness of breath, dyspnea, chest pain, post-tussive emesis

Nasal flaring, grunting, rhinorrhea, apnea (in infants)

Consider other causes of disordered control of breathing

**ASTHMA**

**BRONCHIOLITIS**

Burn or redness around mouth, chemical breath, N/V, dyspnea, altered mental status

fever, cough, chills, chest pain, tachypnea, crackles, thick/yellow sputum

muscle weakness, hypotonia, loss of reflexes, involuntary movements

**POISONING**

**PNEUMONIA**

**NEUROMUSCULAR DISEASE**

Child is feeding well, able to speak more than 1-2 words at a time  
FEV ≥ 60-80%  
SpO2 ≥ 92%  
**MILD-MODERATE**

Child is too breathless to feed or speak  
FEV < 60%  
SpO2 < 92%  
**SEVERE**

• Suctioning  
• Bronchodilator trial  
• Try epinephrine or albuterol; nebulizer therapy can aggravate symptoms in infants

Dx with sputum cultures, CXR, CBC

• Assist perfusion: Sats > 95%  
• Contact Poison Control: (800) 222-1222

Dx with CXR, CBC w/differential, CMP, bcx, cultures  
• Lymphocytes: viral  
• Procalcitonin: bacterial  
• Lactate: end-organ perfusion

Known hx/dx of:  
• Congenital muscular dystrophy  
• Myasthenia gravis  
• Guillain-barre syndrome  
  
• Assist perfusion: Sats > 95%  
• Suction as needed

• Albuterol: by MDI or nebulizer  
• Oral corticosteroids

• Albuterol: by MDI with spacer or nebulizer  
• Oral/IV corticosteroids  
• Nebulizer: Ipratropium bromide OR ipratropium bromide AND albuterol (Duo-Neb)  
• Consider establishing IV access

• Continue to monitor vital signs, ABGs, and CBC panel  
• Use humidified O2 to keep SpO2 > 94%

• Antibiotic or Antiviral  
• Assist perfusion: Sats > 95%

Improvement marked by no tachypnea, minimal wheezing, reduced/no retractions, reduced work of breathing, able to speak and feed

Improvement?  
Yes No

• Continue to monitor vital signs, ABGs, and CBC panel  
• Use humidified O2 to keep SpO2 > 94%

Improvement?  
Yes No

• Continuous albuterol may be needed  
• Consider magnesium sulfate IV bolus if albuterol is exhausted  
• If still unresponsive to treatment, consider terbutaline or salmeterol (Serevent)

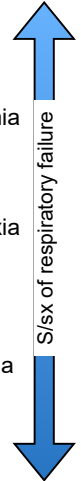
Continue to monitor CXR, CBC w/differential, CMP, box, and cultures

Improvement?  
Yes No

Consider if pt. fits SIRS criteria, and proceed with sepsis protocol

Improvement marked by no fever, dyspnea, chest pain, thick/yellow sputum

**V/Q Mismatch**



Hypoxemia

Hypoxia

Hypercapnia

**SIGNS OF RESPIRATORY FAILURE:**  
Cyanosis, bradypnea, decreased chest wall expansions  
  
• Is airway established? If not, will need airway adjunct  
• Pulseless? Start CPR.