

Acute bronchitis is a common respiratory tract infection. It is characterized by inflammation of the bronchi, which leads to cough, sputum production, and sometimes wheezing. The cough is usually productive and may be accompanied by chest discomfort. The condition is typically self-limiting and resolves within a few weeks.

The most common cause of acute bronchitis is viral infection. Bacterial infection is less common and usually occurs as a secondary infection. Risk factors for acute bronchitis include exposure to irritants, smoking, and a weakened immune system. Treatment is primarily symptomatic, focusing on relieving cough and sputum production. Supportive care, such as hydration and rest, is also important.

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Etiology

Viral infection is the most common cause of acute bronchitis. Bacterial infection is less common and usually occurs as a secondary infection.

Respiratory viruses that infect the upper respiratory tract, such as influenza A and B, parainfluenza, adenovirus, and rhinovirus, are common causes. Bacterial causes include Mycoplasma pneumoniae, Chlamydia pneumoniae, and Bordetella pertussis.

- Mycoplasma pneumoniae
- Chlamydia pneumoniae

Manifestations

Manifestations of bronchitis consist of a cough (which is usually productive), chest pain, and fever (38.3-38.9°C). Physical findings will include tachycardia, hyperinflation, and decreased breath sounds. The cough is usually productive and may be accompanied by chest discomfort. The condition is typically self-limiting and resolves within a few weeks.

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