

## Paediatric Chronic Cough: Help with specific cough pointers

Major aetiological cause	Examples	Pointers: not all pointers will be present and the list is not exhaustive
Post infectious	Typically shows spontaneous resolution over time	Cough subsiding
Airway infections	Persistent bacterial bronchitis, Chronic suppurative lung disease, Bronchiectasis, Cystic fibrosis, Immune deficiency, Ciliary dyskinesia, Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, Other chronic infections e.g., tuberculosis and atypical mycobacteria	Neonatal onset Wet or mixed wet/dry cough Purulent/mucoid sputum Relentlessly progressive or static but ongoing >8/52 Haemoptysis Dyspnoea Wheezing Lack of vaccinations Risk factors for TB exposure Immunodeficiency Recurrent otitis media/hearing loss Recurrent sino-pulmonary infection Recurrent bronchitis/LRTI Isolated wet cough in pre-school age attending childcare (PBB) Airway malacia
Airway anomaly	Primary or secondary tracheobronchomalacia, congenital airway and pulmonary malformation	Neonatal onset Relentlessly progressive or static but ongoing >8/52 Brassy/barking seal-like cough Clear or purulent sputum Triggered by body position or feeding Dyspnoea Chest pain Cyanosis

		Stridor Wheezing
<b>Airway inflammation</b>	Asthma, Eosinophilic bronchitis, Environmental pollutants	Dry cough Clear sputum Triggered by allergens, pollution, cold air, exercise Atopy Dyspnoea, shortness of breath Wheezing, chest tightness
<b>Airway aspiration</b>	Primary airway aspiration, Secondary aspiration owing to gastroesophageal reflux	Neonatal onset, T21 Relentlessly progressive or static but ongoing >8/52 Failure to thrive Feeding difficulties, coughing with drinking/feeding Chest pain/ heartburn/ triggered by lying down Cyanosis Regurgitation/spitting/vomiting/GORD
	Foreign body aspiration	Abrupt onset even if choking episode was not observed Stridor Cyanosis associated with coughing Typically <3 years of age
<b>Upper airway associations</b>	Rhinitis Sinusitis	Clear sputum Allergic nasal crease (allergic salute)
<b>Tic and somatic syndrome</b>		Brassy/barking seal-like cough or Honking cough Distractable
<b>Extra-pulmonary</b>	Drug induced, cardiac	ACE inhibitors
<b>Other specific diseases</b>	Interstitial lung disease Tumours, Others	Clear sputum, Dyspnoea, Chest pain, Cyanosis, Wheezing, Failure to thrive, Haemoptysis, Night sweats