

Bronchiolitis

Info for parents

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Contact
Tel. 09 332 27 42

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1 What is bronchiolitis?

- Bronchiolitis is an infection caused by a virus (often RSV) that affects the small branches of the airways.
- The illness mainly affects infants and young children.
- Symptoms include a runny nose, fever, coughing, wheezing and sometimes difficult breathing. Sleeping and eating can also become more difficult.
- Wheezing, fever and difficult breathing last on average 3 to 5 days. The cough can last up to 2 weeks.
- Children normally heal completely from this illness. They may still be sensitive for some time to wheezing during subsequent viral infections.
- Some children require admission to the hospital for extra fluid, oxygen or treatment for an additional bacterial infection.

2 How to treat your child at home?

- Since bronchiolitis is usually caused by a virus, antibiotics will not help.
- Your child needs a lot of rest.
- Treat the fever with the appropriate medication.
- In general, aerosols or inhalers do not help much. However, the doctor can decide that such are useful for your child
- Give your child sufficient fluids. If necessary, give the bottles/milk more frequently and in smaller quantities. You can replace solid food with milk.

3 When to consult a doctor again?

If a fever persists for more than 72 hours.

4 Urgent medical advice

Seek urgent medical advice:

- when your child no longer wants to drink, suffers from increased drowsiness or urinates less.
- when your child exhibits strong breathing movements or becomes exhausted while breathing.

- if a fever is present (if your child is younger than 3 months).

5 Contact

The Paediatrics Department of University Hospital Ghent offers third-line care. This means that care is provided for complex disorders. The number of hospital beds at the Paediatrics Department is therefore limited. If your child needs to be admitted, we are able to arrange admission to another hospital. Thus we advise you to choose your own doctor/paediatrician who can monitor your child and refer the child to us if necessary.

For urgent questions:

- Emergency Department University Hospital Ghent: tel. 09 332 27 42
- Paediatrician on duty at University Hospital Ghent: tel. 09 332 35 15

For **urgent** medical help, come to the Emergency Department.

For **immediate** medical help, call 112.

This information does not replace consultation with a doctor and is also available in other languages.