

# Laryngitis/croup

## Info for parents

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### EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

**Contact**

Tel. 09 332 27 42

**Date**

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## 1 What is laryngitis?

- Laryngitis is caused by a virus in which the mucous membranes of the vocal cords and large airways swell.
- Signs of the disease include runny nose, slight fever, hoarseness and a dry cough. A severe barking cough may suddenly develop with shortness of breath and inhalation accompanied by a “whooping” sound.
- A laryngitis attack usually lasts a few hours, often in the evening or at night. An attack can repeat itself several times, but has no lasting consequences.
- In very serious cases, it may be necessary to be admitted to the hospital for additional treatment and monitoring.

## 2 How to treat your child?

- Since laryngitis is usually caused by a virus, antibiotics will not help.
- In the case of a mild form (cough without breathing difficulties), no treatment is required. Keeping your child calm is important.
- In its more severe form with especially laborious breathing and inhalation accompanied by whooping, cortisone is often given in syrup or aerosol form.
- In the event of a new occurrence, repeating the cortisone inhalation/syrup treatment can help. This is prescribed by a doctor.
- If necessary, treat the fever (see separate brochure).

## 3 When to consult a doctor again?

- If a fever persists for more than 72 hours.
- When you are concerned.

**Urgent medical assistance:**

- When your child is breathing so hard that he or she becomes exhausted.
- When your child suddenly becomes seriously ill accompanied by drowsiness, high fever, lots of salivation.

## 4 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.*