

Asthma

Asthma is a disease in which the airways into your lungs become narrow and produce mucus. When this happens, it is hard to breathe. Some things that can trigger an asthma attack include allergies, cold viruses, medicines, dusts, chemicals, exercise or emotions.

Signs

- Breathing faster than normal or trouble breathing
- Wheezing or noisy breathing
- Coughing that may be worse at night or early in the morning
- Feeling tight in the chest
- Having a fast heartbeat
- Having head congestion
- Having a itchy, scratchy or sore throat
- Being tired
- If your doctor ordered a peak flow meter, having a drop in peak flow meter readings

You may have more signs of asthma if you:

- Have allergies
- Have a family member with asthma
- Are sensitive to air pollution
- Are exposed to smoke
- Have stress

Asma

El asma es una enfermedad en la cual las vías respiratorias que conducen a los pulmones se estrechan y producen mucosidades. Cuando esto ocurre, se hace difícil respirar. Algunas cosas que pueden desencadenar un ataque de asma incluyen alergias, virus del resfriado, medicamentos, polvo, sustancias químicas, ejercicio o emociones.

Signos

- Respiración más acelerada que lo normal o problemas para respirar
- Respiración con silbidos o sonidos al respirar
- Tos que puede ser peor de noche o temprano en la mañana
- Sensación de tirantez en el pecho
- Taquicardia
- Tener congestión en la cabeza
- Picazón o dolor de garganta
- Sentirse cansado
- Si su médico le receta un medidor de flujo de aire máximo, tener una baja en las lecturas de éste

Puede tener más signos de asma si:

- tiene alergias;
- tiene un familiar con asma;
- es sensible a la contaminación del aire;
- está expuesto a humo;
- tiene estrés.

Your Care

Your care may include:

- Taking different medicines to:
 - ▶ Open airways
 - ▶ Decrease your body's response to allergens
 - ▶ Decrease the swelling of your airways
 - ▶ Decrease congestion
- Finding out what causes your signs.
- Allergy testing.
- Using a peak flow meter to check and prevent asthma attacks.
- Drinking a large glass of liquid every 1 to 2 hours. This helps keep your mucus thin. Thin mucus is easier for you to cough up and decreases the swelling in your lungs. Clear liquids are best, such as water, fruit juice, tea, broth and clear soups.
- Avoiding milk products when wheezing because they can thicken your mucus.

To Prevent Asthma Attacks

- Keep asthma medicine with you at all times. Take your scheduled medicines even if your signs go away.
- Avoid cigarette, pipe and cigar smoke.
- Stay away from foods, medicines or things that cause you to have signs of asthma. These are called triggers.
- Avoid contact with people who have a cold or flu.
- Rest and drink plenty of liquids at the first sign of a cold.

Cuidados

Sus cuidados pueden incluir:

- Tomar medicamentos diferentes para:
 - ▶ abrir las vías respiratorias;
 - ▶ disminuir la respuesta de su cuerpo a los alérgenos;
 - ▶ disminuir la hinchazón de sus vías respiratorias;
 - ▶ disminuir la congestión.
- Averiguar la causa de sus signos.
- Exámenes para la detección de alergias.
- Usar un medidor de flujo de aire máximo para vigilar y prevenir ataques de asma.
- Tomar un vaso grande de líquido cada 1 a 2 horas. Esto ayuda a mantener las mucosidades claras. Las mucosidades claras son más fáciles de expulsar y disminuyen la inflamación de sus pulmones. Los más recomendables son los líquidos claros, tales como el agua, el jugo de frutas, el té, el caldo y las sopas claras.
- Evite los productos lácteos cuando tenga respiración con silbidos, ya que pueden espesar las mucosidades.

Para prevenir los ataques de asma

- Conserve siempre consigo los medicamentos contra el asma. Tome sus medicamentos programados incluso si sus signos desaparecen
- Evite el humo de cigarrillo, pipa o cigarro
- Aléjese de los alimentos, medicamentos o elementos que le provoquen signos de asma. A todos éstos se los llama desencadenantes
- Evite el contacto con personas que estén resfriadas o con gripe
- Descanse y beba mucho líquido ante el primer signo de resfrío

- Breathe through a scarf or other covering in cold weather.
- Talk to your doctor about an exercise to strengthen your lungs.
- Reduce stress.

Call your doctor right away if you:

- Have a cough, are wheezing or are having trouble breathing.
- Feel you need to take more medicine than your doctor has ordered.
- Have a temperature over 100.5 degrees F or 38 degrees C.
- Have mucus that is not white or clear, or mucus that is too thick to cough up.
- Have problems caused by your medicine such as shakiness, confusion, nervousness, upset stomach or a bad taste.
- Are not able to do your normal activities or exercise.

Call 911 right away if you have:

- Severe wheezing, trouble breathing or coughing.
- Chest pain.
- Lips or fingernails that are gray or blue.

Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.

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- Respire a través de una bufanda u otra cubierta en climas fríos
- Hable con su médico acerca de un ejercicio para fortalecer sus pulmones
- Reduzca el estrés

Llame a su médico de inmediato si:

- tiene tos, silbidos u otros problemas para respirar;
- siente que necesita más medicamentos de los que le recetó el médico;
- tiene fiebre superior a 100.5 °F o (38 °C);
- tiene mucosidades que no son blancas ni claras o mucosidades que son demasiado espesas para eliminar;
- tiene problemas ocasionados por sus medicamentos, tales como temblores, confusión, nerviosismo, molestias estomacales o un mal sabor en la boca;
- no puede realizar sus actividades o ejercicio normales.

Llame inmediatamente al 911 si tiene:

- silbidos graves al respirar, problemas para respirar o tos;
- dolor en el pecho;
- labios o uñas grises o azules.

Hable con su médico o enfermera si tiene alguna pregunta o duda.

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Asthma. Spanish.