

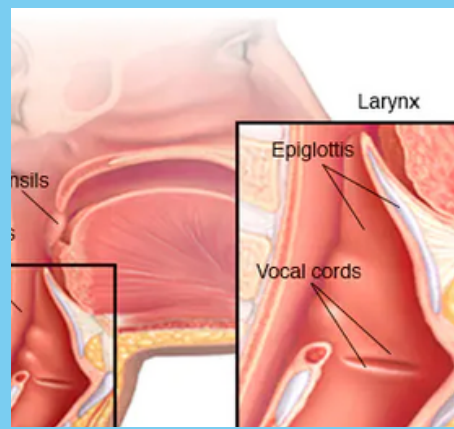
# EPIGLOTTITIS

## Summary Sheet

### DEFINITION

Inflammation of the epiglottis; the leaf shaped cartilage that covers the trachea when swallowing, stopping food going down it

### THROAT ANATOMY



### CAUSES

Bacterial Infection

- Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (we vaccinate against this)
- Strep Pneumoniae
- Strep Pyogenes
- Staph Aureus

Transmitted by droplets in the air

### RISK FACTORS

- Male
- Immunosuppression
- No HIB vaccination

### SYMPTOMS

- Sore throat
- Hoarseness
- Fever
- Stridor
- Dyspnoea
- Dysphagia
- Drooling

### INVESTIGATIONS

Imaging

- Laryngoscopy
- Lateral C-spine XR - Thumbprint sign shows a swollen epiglottis
- CT - Halloween sign indicates a normal epiglottis

Others

- FBC - Raised WCC
- Throat swab

### MANAGEMENT

Airway Management

1. Tracheal intubation
2. Cricothyrotomy

Medical Management

1. IV ceftriaxone (clindamycin if allergy)
2. Prednisolone

### COMPLICATIONS

- Death due to asphyxiation
- Meningitis
- Pneumonia
- Empyema
- Septic arthritis
- Cellulitis
- Pneumothorax

