

Wheezing in the young : How to approach and treat ?

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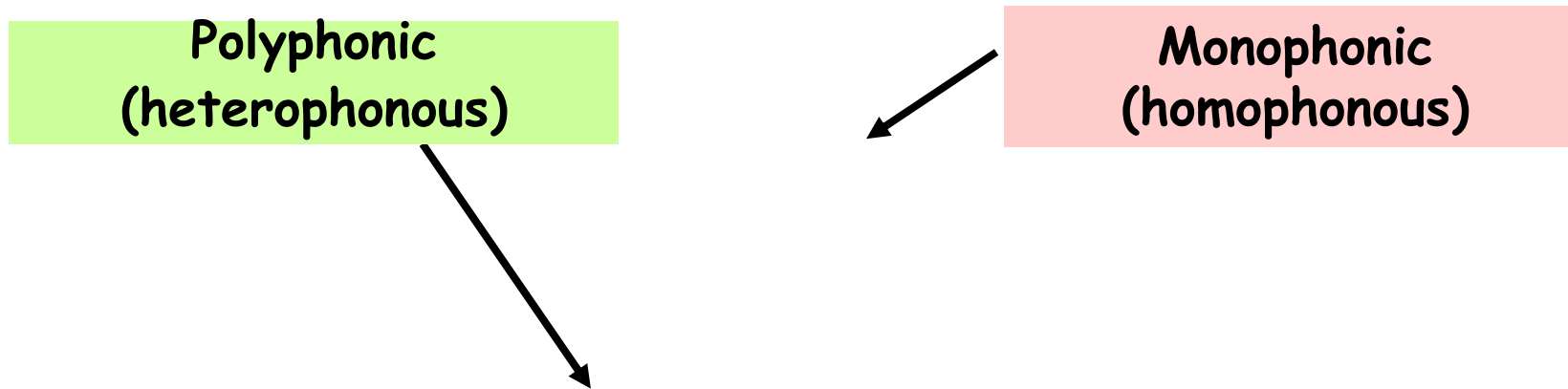
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Physiology / Mechanism of wheezing

: Continuous musical, **high pitched whistling** sounds usually associated with **prolonged expiration** caused by vibration of airway wall due to **turbulent airflow through narrow airways**

Physiology / Mechanism of wheezing



Wheezing – indicates airflow limitation

Loudness – does not indicate severity of obstruction

Biphasic wheeze – indicates more severe obstruction

Quality of wheeze – indicates site of obstruction

Anatomic & physiologic predisposition to wheezing in infants and young children

- Anatomic :
 - **Smaller airways**
 - **Spiral airway smooth muscles extend to peripheral airways**
→ **increased BHR**

Paediatr Respir Rev 2004; 5: 577-579

Taussig : Pediatric Respiratory Medicine 2008

Anatomic & physiologic predisposition to wheezing in infants and young children

- Physiologic:
 - Increased nasal airway resistance
 - Increased peripheral airway resistance
 - Decreased elastic recoil pressure
 - early airway closure

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Taussig : Pediatric Respiratory Medicine 2008