

# LUNG SOUNDS

## Rhonchi

Rhonchi sounds have a continuous snoring, gurgling, or rattle-like quality. Rhonchi occur in the bronchi as air moves through tracheal-bronchial passages coated with mucus or respiratory secretions. This is often heard in pneumonia, chronic bronchitis, or cystic fibrosis. Rhonchi usually clear after coughing.

## Stridor

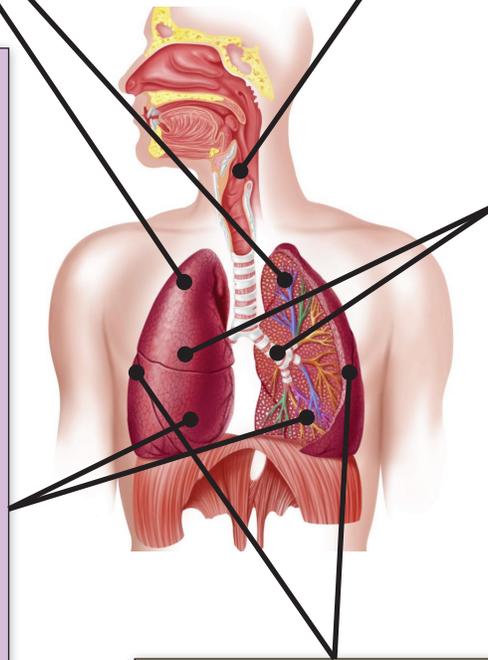
Stridor is a high-pitched musical sound heard on inspiration. The sound is similar to wheezing, but heard over the throat. Air is moving roughly over a partially obstructed upper airway. Stridor is caused by something blocking the larynx, such as a person choking on an object.

## Crackles

Previously termed "rales," crackles are sounds that are heard in the lung field that has fluid in small airways. Crackles can be heard on inspiration and expiration. Early inspiratory and expiratory crackles are heard in chronic bronchitis. Late inspiratory crackles may indicate pneumonia, CHF, or atelectasis, a complete or partial collapse of a lung or lobe of a lung. Crackles can also be considered fine (high-pitched) or course (louder and lower in pitch).

## Wheezing

Wheezing sounds may occur during inhalation or exhalation. Most commonly, they are a high-pitched whistle-like sound heard during exhalation as air moves through a narrow or obstructed airway. Wheezing is associated with asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, COPD, smoking, heart failure, inhaling a foreign object into the lungs, or an allergic reaction.



## Pleural Friction Rubs

Pleural rubs occur when two inflamed pleural surfaces rub against each other during respiration. This is often heard in pleurisy, or inflammation of the tissues that lie in the lungs and chest cavity. The sound may be continuous or broken and creaking or grating. It can be described as the sound of walking on fresh snow or rubbing leather together and is most commonly heard over the anterior lateral aspect of the lung fields.

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# LUNG SOUNDS

Scan the QR codes below to listen to real lung sounds!



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RHONCHI



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STRIDOR

WHEEZING



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CRACKLES



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PLEURAL FRICTION RUBS



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