



Epiglottitis (Acute Supraglottic Laryngitis) 會厭炎(英文)

Introduction

Epiglottitis is a cartilage structure which is located at junction of tongue base and larynx. Its function is to mask larynx (respiratory tract) while swallowing to prevent people from aspiration pneumonia or lung injury. Acute epiglottitis is an infection of epiglottis, and it is also called an acute supraglottic laryngitis. Upper airway may be threatened owing to severe epiglottitis inflammatory swelling status.

Because upper air-way compromised by the epiglottitis might result in death, and we should be aware of this disease carefully.

Diagnosis

1. Detailed physical examination including oropharynx and larynx. And X-films may show thumb sign related to severe epiglottic swelling.
2. Avoid indirect laryngoscopy to prevent lethal apnea caused by reactive laryngeal spasm.

Essentials of Treatment

1. Oxygen support and moisten air
2. Instruments prepared for emergent endotracheal intubation or tracheostomy
3. Be aware of the fatal apnea

Essentials of self-care

1. More rest and fluid support
2. Avoid cigarette, alcohol and irritate food
3. Monitor the respiratory pattern. If persisted breathlessness is noted, please call for medical help soon for further management.

若有任何疑問，請不吝與我們聯絡
電話：(04) 22052121 分機 3207
HE-84005-E