

Bronchiolitis

Bronchiolitis is an illness caused by RSV, Influenza, Adenovirus, metapneumovirus and others. These germs generally just cause common colds. However they can cause more congestion than the average bad cold. Just like with other illnesses (example: Chicken Pox) there are mild cases and severe cases. About 1-2% of RSV illnesses are severe enough to have respiratory distress from all the congestion and may need oxygen and hospitalization.

Like all other colds, we can't cure bronchiolitis. There is no known treatment that can be used routinely that will effectively stop its progression. We essentially watch for complications that can be treated (Ear infection, bacterial pneumonia) and watch for problems that can't be cured but require treatment (respiratory distress)

If your child has any bad "cold" you should check with us if:

- There is any respiratory distress – (Rapid breathing (>60 per minute while asleep), retractions (the chest caving in as your child breathes) or just a general sense you may have that your child is having difficulty breathing
- If your child's color is poor (pale or bluish)
- If your child is suffering and in pain
- If your child gets a new fever and seems a lot sicker after not having had a fever

The best way to prevent transmission is by good hand washing and avoiding direct contact with people with colds.. Certain groups are at higher risk of developing respiratory problems with RSV infections including premature babies or other children with chronic lung disease, infants with serious heart disease, and possibly children in families with histories of asthma. They should be checked at earlier signs of distress.