Laryngomalacia

Laryngomalacia (la-ring-o-ma-la-sha) is a temporary condition in which the muscles and tissues near the voice box are not well developed. This tissue folds or collapses into the airway when a baby breathes in, causing a loud noise called stridor. This is like having a straw collapse when you drink a thick shake. The harder you suck on the straw, the more it collapses.

Laryngomalacia usually improves within 6 to 12 months when the soft tissue and muscle control matures.

**Home Care:**

Your child may have the following symptoms:

- Noisy breathing (stridor)
- Sucking-in movements around the ribs (retractions)

These symptoms will usually be worse when your baby has a cold. Noisy breathing may also worsen when your baby lies on his back with his chin down. Check with your baby’s doctor to see if his breathing may be better or quieter when he is lying on his stomach or side with his chin slightly raised.

If your baby is having problems eating or drinking, or is not eating enough to grow well, he should be evaluated by his doctor. Some children may need surgery.

**Call 911 or take your baby to the nearest emergency room if he:**

- Becomes blue (lips, skin, or fingernails).
- Has sucking-in movements around the ribs (retractions) that are more severe than usual.
- Becomes hard to arouse or is less alert than usual.