

Abbreviations (laboratory & radiology excluded):
 ED = Emergency Department
 ENT = Ear, Nose, and Throat
 LOC = Loss of consciousness
 PICU = Pediatric Intensive Care Unit
 UC = Urgent Care

Inclusion Criteria:

- Age 6 months to 6 years
- Principal diagnosis of croup

Exclusion Criteria:

- Toxic appearance
- Symptoms suggestive of an alternative diagnosis
- Known upper airway abnormality
- Hypotonia or neuromuscular disorder
- Complex medical co-morbidities

Not Routinely Recommended:

- Cool mist
- X-Ray
- ENT consult
- Viral testing
- Repeat dexamethasone

Discharge Criteria:

- > 2 hours since last racemic epinephrine
- No stridor at rest, tachypnea, intercostal retractions, or other signs of increased work of breathing
- Able to talk or feed without difficulty
- The patient is able to return to the ED/UCC if symptoms return

Children who appear ill or toxic and/or do not respond to racemic epinephrine may have an alternative diagnosis, consider:

- Bacterial tracheitis
- Epiglottitis
- Retropharyngeal abscess
- Foreign body
- Allergic reaction

