NIH Toxidrome

Affected Areas

Upper pulmonary:
Upper respiratory tract
(including airway/bronchi)

Lower pulmonary: Air space/alveoli



Irritant/Corrosive

Immediate Symptoms

Respiratory distress

Increased respiratory rate (shallow and/or rapid)

Shortness of breath

Plus or minus secretions (e.g. drooling, mucus)

Coughing

lacrimation

Use of accessory muscles for breathing (tri-pod position)

Upper pulmonary: Wheezing Stridor Nasal and oral secretions Excessive eye tearing or

Ongoing Symptoms

Inhalation

Upper Respiratory:
Bronchial spasm
Respiratory failure

Lower Respiratory:
Air space disease
Absent breath sounds
Rhonchi
Rales

Potential respiratory failure (e.g. cyanotic, apnea)

CHEMM

Not meant to be a complete care guideline. Please refer to the CHEMM website for more information: https://chemm.hhs.gov/mmghome.htm



Irritant/Corrosive: Inhalation

Examples

Chemical Warfare Agents

Phosgene*

Toxic Industrial Chemicals/Toxic Industrial Materials

Ammonia

Chlorine

Phosgene*

Riot control agents

*May be weaponized

Common Treatment Protocols

Oxygen
Bronchodilators
Corticosteroid
Mechanical Ventilation
Suction
Sodium Bicarbonate

Sensitive Populations

No particularly sensitive populations

Concerns About This Syndrome

Lower pulmonary agents will, in their ideal presentation, be noted by the absence of upper pulmonary and mucus membrane signs and symptoms. Odor may be used for specific agent recognition. Hydrofluoric acid (HF)-specific antidote (calcium) may cause systemic (cardiac) effects after absorption.