

Wheeze

Monophonic & Polyphonic

Wheeze

- Continual
- High-pitched
- 'Musical' quality sounds
- End inspiration or at the start of expiration

Pathophysiology

Airway narrowing → Airflow induced oscillation of airway walls → Acoustic waves

When airway lumen gets smaller, the airflow velocity increases, resulting in vibration of the airway wall and the tonal quality.

Wheeze

Monophonic



- Wheeze with a single note
- Starts and ends at different points in time
- Examples
 - **Bronchial tumor** - Pitch and timing is fixed as the tumor is static
 - **Fixed foreign body** in child

Polyphonic



- Wheeze with several different tones
- Start and finish at the same time
- Fixed compression occurs in multiple bronchi at the same time
- Heard in obstructive airway diseases like COPD, asthma, bronchiectasis etc
- Caused by second- or third-order bronchi closing at the same time at end expiration, as the pressures within the airway keeping them patent are reduced
- In healthy people at end expiration (forceful expiration)

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