

Smoke Inhalation

Definition 📖

Common after closed space exposure to fire; consider airway burns, carbon monoxide poisoning, other toxin inhalation, and need for hyperbaric oxygen

Signs and Symptoms

→ History of smoke exposure, burns, singed nares, facial burns, coughing, respiratory distress (may be delayed in onset)

Management

1. Refer to Airway Management protocol and consider early cricothyroidotomy or intubation
2. Administer the following:
 - **Oxygen** if available
 - **Albuterol** (Proventil) MDI 2-4 puffs q4-6h
 - **Dexamethasone** (Decadron) 10mg IV/IM daily x 2 days
5. Limit patient exertion and activity

Disposition

- **Priority** evacuation if significant inhalation suspected
- **Urgent** evacuation if in respiratory distress

