

Aerodigestive Disorders of the Upper Digestive Tract (Esophagus)

Condition or disorder	Description	Results in
Esophageal motility disorder, including spasm and achalasia (nerve damage)	Irregular, uncoordinated, or absent contractions of the esophagus, causing changes in timing or flow of material through the esophagus	Difficulty swallowing
Gastroesophageal reflux	Flow of stomach acid into the esophagus, causing irritation of its lining May be termed “nonerosive esophageal reflux disease” in the presence of reflux-related symptoms without mucosal erosions	Difficulty swallowing or voice problems
Inflammatory forms of esophagitis (e.g., eosinophilic, viral, reflux-related)	Inflammation of tissues of the esophagus	Difficulty swallowing and chest pain
Structural disorders, including stricture, web, and diverticulum	Changes in the structure of the esophagus, including narrowing, obstruction from the thin membrane of the esophageal tissue, and outpouching of the mucosa	Difficulty swallowing

Note. Developed with information from Andrews (2006), Ashland and Hersh (2009), Jadcherla (2012), Martinucci et al. (2013), and Matsuo and Palmer (2008).

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