

Clinical clues to alternative diagnoses in wheezy children (features not commonly found in children with asthma) (BTS/SIGN asthma guidelines)

Perinatal and family history	Possible diagnosis
Symptoms present from birth or perinatal lung problem	Cystic fibrosis, chronic lung disease of prematurity, ciliary dyskinesia, developmental lung anomaly
Family history of unusual chest disease	Cystic fibrosis, neuromuscular disorder
Severe upper respiratory tract disease	Defect of host defence, ciliary dyskinesia
Symptoms and signs	
Persistent moist cough	Cystic fibrosis, bronchiectasis, Protracted bacterial bronchitis, recurrent aspiration, host defence disorder, ciliary dyskinesia
Excessive vomiting	Gastro-oesophageal reflux (+/- aspiration)
Dysphagia	Swallowing problem (+/- aspiration)
Breathlessness with light headedness and peripheral tingling	Hyperventilation/panic attacks
Symptoms only with exercise with absence of wheeze	Deconditioning Obesity
Inspiratory stridor	Tracheal or laryngeal disorder
Focal signs in chest	Developmental anomaly, post infective syndrome, bronchiectasis, tuberculosis
Finger clubbing	Cystic fibrosis, Bronchiectasis
Failure to thrive	Cystic fibrosis, host defence disorder, gastro-oesophageal reflux
Investigations	
Focal or persistent radiological changes	Developmental lung anomaly, cystic fibrosis, post infective disorder, recurrent aspiration, inhaled foreign body, bronchiectasis, tuberculosis