

A photograph of a swimming pool with clear blue water and a tiled edge. The water is rippling, and the tiles are a light blue color. The pool deck is made of white plastic slats.

# **What You Need to Know About Delayed Drowning**

**Presented by Dudley DeBosier Injury Lawyers**

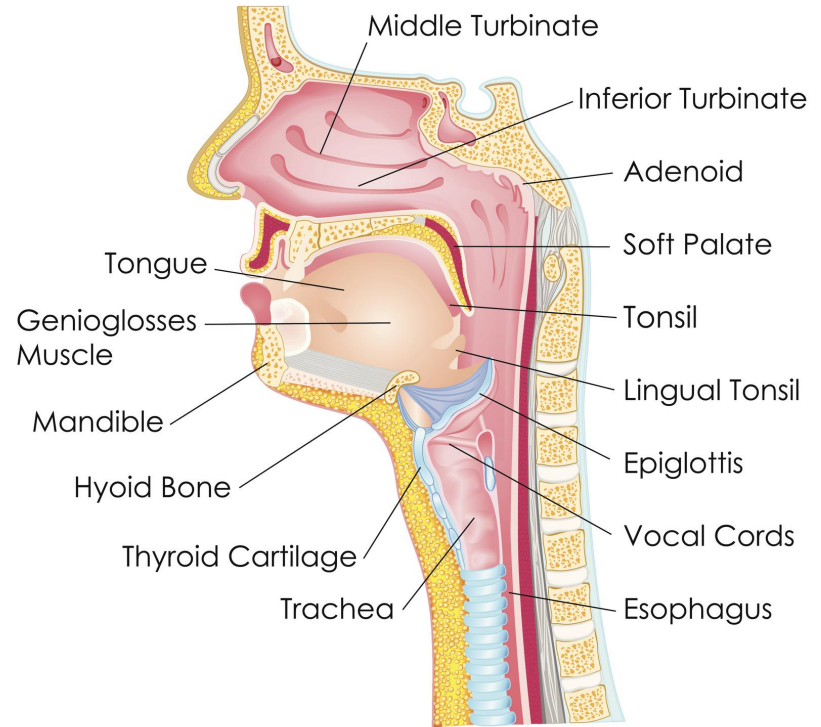
**Dry drowning** and **secondary drowning** are often used interchangeably when talking about delayed drowning, but they are two separate types of submersion injuries.

# What is Dry Drowning?

## Dry Drowning

After inhaling water, the vocal cords close over the windpipe to protect the lungs, making it difficult to breathe.

This is called a laryngospasm.

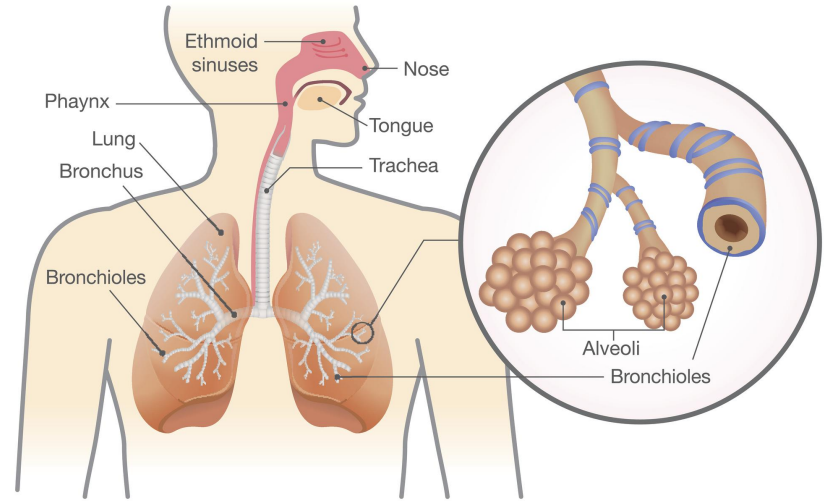


# What is Secondary Drowning?

## Secondary Drowning

Water gets into the lungs, causing irritation, swelling, and fluid buildup, which prevents oxygen from entering the bloodstream.

This is called pulmonary edema.



## What Are the Symptoms of a Delayed Drowning Injury?

- Difficulty speaking and/or breathing
- Coughing
- Chest pain
- Confusion, irritability, and/or unusual behavior
- Vomiting and/or dizziness
- Low energy



# When Do Symptoms First Appear?

**Dry drowning**

Within an hour

**Secondary drowning**

Within 24 hours



# What to Do if You Notice Symptoms

Take your child to the emergency room immediately, rather than the pediatrician. Do your best to keep your child (and yourself) calm.



## What to Expect When You Arrive at the Hospital

Doctors will monitor your child's vital signs, including heart rate, body temperature, and oxygen levels.

Oxygen may be administered, and a chest x-ray may be ordered to check for fluid in the lungs.

Expect hospital staff to keep your child under observation for 4-6 hours.

After that, doctors will be able to determine if additional care or observation is needed.



# The Stats

Drowning is the 2nd leading cause of death among children ages 1-4 and the 2nd leading cause of unintentional injury death among children ages 1-14\*.

[\\*Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Drowning can occur in less than one minute and in mere inches of water.

Delayed drowning is rare, occurring in less than 5 percent of near-drowning cases\*.

[\\*Source: US National Library of Medicine](#)



## How You Can Prevent Submersion Injuries

- Always supervise your children in any amount of water, even if a lifeguard is on duty.
- Don't depend on water wings or other floaties; do use a well-fitting U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket.
- Keep private pools fenced off and gates closed when they're not in use.
- Enroll your children in swim lessons as early as possible.



From the team at Dudley DeBosier, let's all do our part to  
make our communities safer this summer.

**866-641-6642**

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