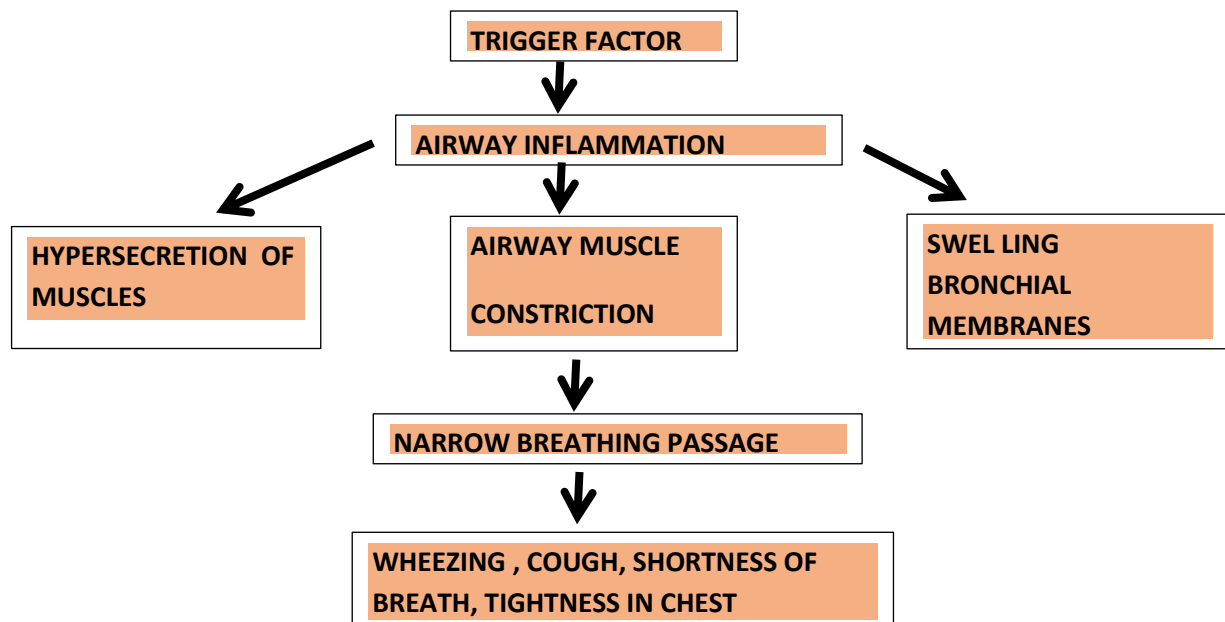
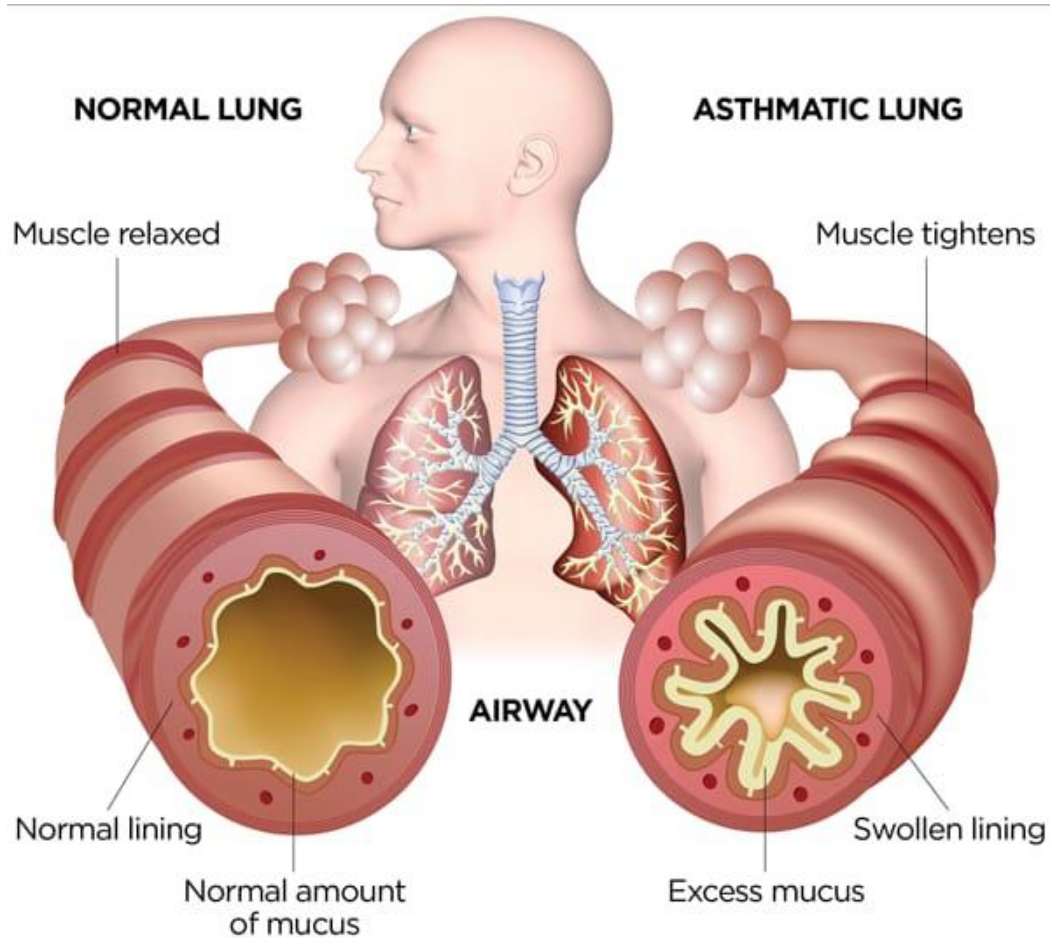


ASTHMA

- *Bronchial asthma* is characterised by hyperresponsiveness of tracheobronchial smooth muscle to a variety of stimuli, resulting in narrowing of air tubes, often accompanied by increased secretion, mucosal edema and mucus plugging. Symptoms include dyspnoea, wheezing, cough and may be limitation of activity.
- In asthma patients, an acute asthmatic attack is a medical emergency. It requires immediate relief of bronchial obstruction with bronchodilators for removal of excess bronchial secretions and reduction of mucosal edema. In the treatment of acute asthmatic attack, stress on immediate management becomes of greater importance than asthma itself. In the treatment of acute attack of asthma, sedatives should not be administered unless the patient is under close supervision and facilities for ventilation are available. The basic cause of asthma is still unknown.
- Bronchial asthma is a respiratory disorder characterized by wheezing and difficulty in breathing due to increased resistance to airflow in the alveoli or small airways. This is caused by the spasm of the bronchial smooth muscles and also due to edema and swelling of bronchial mucous membrane. The viscid sputum causes blockage of small airways





TYPES OF ASTHMA –

Extrinsic Asthma - It is episodic and not as in case of status asthmaticus. Its attack occurs due to infections, irritants, pollution, exercise, exposure to cold weather, house dust, street dust which are involved in asthmatic attack. Most cells present in lungs release histamine leading to constriction of bronchial smooth muscles which causes mucosal edema and viscid secretion and it results reversible airway obstruction.

Intrinsic asthma - It tends to be perennial. This type of asthmatic attack may occur throughout the year and it is life-long asthma. It is non seasonal, non allergic form of asthma. The precipitating factors include inhalation of irritating pollutants present in the atmosphere like smoke, dust particles, aerosols, volatile substances, paint fumes, strong cooking odour. Asthmatic attack or bronchospasm may also occur in cold climate, damp weather, after physical exercise, violent coughing, violent laughing. Respiratory infections, common cold, anxiety may also induce asthmatic attack

Status asthmaticus - It is an acute, severe and prolonged asthmatic attack. The signs and symptoms are Hypoxia, cyanosis. Patient may become unconscious. The treatment of status asthmaticus includes injection aminophylline to be administered intravenously, corticosteroids, sedation, emotional support and proper bronchial hygiene.