

A photograph of a swimming pool. The water is a vibrant blue with ripples and reflections. The pool's edge is visible at the bottom, featuring a white tiled border and a white plastic grate. The text is overlaid on the water.

What You Need to Know About Delayed Drowning

Presented by Parrish DeVaughn Injury Lawyers

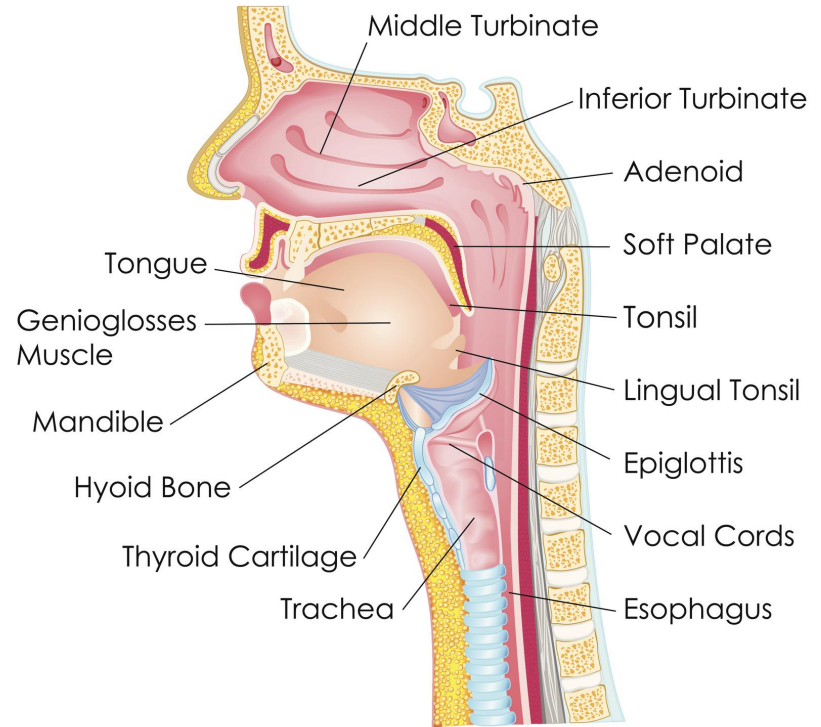
Dry drowning and **secondary drowning** are often used interchangeably when talking about delayed drowning, but they are two separate types of submersion injuries.

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.

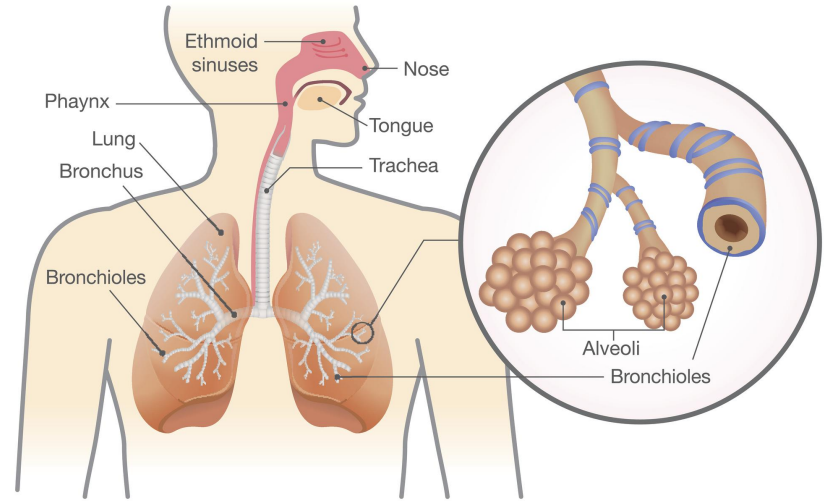


What is Secondary Drowning?

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 Parrish DeVaughn, let's all do our part to
make our communities safer this summer.

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