Smoke Inhalation

Your exam shows you have a smoke inhalation injury. Exposure to hot smoke from a fire can damage both the airway and lungs. Symptoms include cough, sore throat, hoarseness, chest pain, and breathing problems. **The symptoms of smoke inhalation injury are often delayed for up to a day after the exposure**. Patients with chronic lung disease or alcohol intoxication are at higher risk for serious complications. Symptoms of smoke inhalation will usually improve quickly. But further medical evaluation and even hospital care may be needed if your symptoms get worse over the next 1-2 days.

Do not smoke or drink alcohol. Avoid sedative drugs. Increase your fluid intake. Get plenty of rest for the next 2-3 days. **Call your caregiver or go to the emergency room right away if you have any of these more serious symptoms:**

- **Severe chest pain, shortness of breath, or inability to swallow.**
- **Confusion, severe headache, vomiting, or unusual sleepiness.**

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