

What's That Mean? - Bronchiolitis

"Bronchioles" are the small airways in the lungs.

And "-itis" means inflammation.

Put them together and you get "bronchiolitis" which means an inflammation of the small airways in the lungs.

And one unhappy child!

Bronchiolitis is a common lung infection for infants and small children, and is almost always caused by a virus - usually one called respiratory syncytial virus or RSV.

Bronchiolitis starts out like a common cold, with runny or stuffy nose, cough, and a slight fever for a day or two. In fact, in older kids and adults, that's all it usually is, a common cold.

But, sometimes in babies and young children, the RSV virus progresses, the bronchioles in the lungs become inflamed, and get congested with mucus, making it harder for the child to breathe.