

350 City View Drive, Suite 101
Evanston, Wyoming 82930
(307) 789-9203



128 East Owen—P.O. Box 185
Lyman, Wyoming 82937
(307) 787-3800

Strep Throat

The classic Strep Throat is very red. The description in some textbooks is “beefy red”, or the color of raw beef. Often you will see white or green exudates or “pus” on the tonsils, which are also swollen. You may also see little dark red, (almost purple) spots on the back and/or roof of the mouth and on the uvula (the little “punching bag” that hangs from the center of the throat at the back of the mouth). The tongue may be very red with little white spots (like a strawberry) or may be white with little red spots.

Sometimes a person with Strep Throat will have swollen and tender lymph nodes at the front sides of the neck, and the throat will hurt so much that even swallowing liquids is painful. There may also be nasal drainage, and the body temperature may go up to 103 degrees or more. Unlike with viral infections and dryness of the throat, coughing is rare with Strep Throat. Symptoms begin 1-3 days after exposure to an infected person.

Signs and Symptoms of Viral vs. Strep Pharyngitis

Viral Pharyngitis

- Gradual onset with early signs including low grade fever, tiredness, loss of appetite, moderate throat pain, runny nose, cough and hoarseness
- Later onset of moderate swollen lymph nodes in the neck
- Common history of close contact with someone having a common cold
- Runny nose, cough, hoarseness, diarrhea strongly suggestive of viral pharyngitis rather than Strep Pharyngitis

Strep Pharyngitis

- Moderately acute onset of headache, abdominal pain, vomiting usually associated with fever as high as 104 degrees Fahrenheit
- Later symptoms and signs include: severe sore throat, exudative tonsillitis, tender and enlarged anterior cervical lymph nodes
- Inflamed tonsils and tonsillar pillars along with small red spots of the soft palate are strongly suggestive of Strep Pharyngitis.