

Table. Features that differentiate vocal cord dysfunction from asthma

Features	Vocal cord dysfunction	Asthma
Time of onset	Sudden onset, within seconds	Quick, within minutes
Triggers	Irritants, stress, exercise	Irritants, allergens, exercise
Family history	Usually absent	May be present
Sensation of tightness	Throat or neck	Chest
Dyspnoea	Predominantly breathing in	Predominantly breathing out
Sputum production	Not usually	Common
Nocturnal symptoms	Rare	Common
Stridor	Common	Rare
Oxygen desaturations	Not usually	Common
Response to bronchodilators	Not responsive	Responsive