



School of Pharmaceutical Sciences VISTAS, Pallavaram, Chennai, Tamil Nadu



Association of Pharmacy Professionals

TAMILNADU STATE BRANCH
INDO KOREAN INTERNATIONAL
BRANCH

APP AnalChem Division
& APP Trichy Local Branch

*Advances in Nanotechnology, Drug
Development and Pharmaceutical
Sciences*

DATE : 27 March 2026



INDO KOREAN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ADVANCES IN NANOTECHNOLOGY, DRUG DEVELOPMENT
AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

© Veda Publications

March 2026

ISBN: 978-81-990189-9-0

Published by

VEDA PUBLICATIONS

G2, Kasthuri Flats,
Dhenupuri Housing Colony,
Madambakkam
Chennai - 600 126
M.No: 87544 39300
vedapub@gmail.com

Typeset & Printed by

XALENT GRAPHIXS

Chennai - 600 064
M.No: 70928 22277
xalentgraphixs@gmail.com

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APP ABSTRACT - APP 2026 - 272

A SYSTEMIC REVIEW ON ACUTE EPIGLOTTITIS: CLINICAL FEATURES AND DIAGNOSIS.

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ABSTRACT

Acute epiglottitis (AE) is an acute inflammatory life-threatening clinical condition which can lead to obstruction of the airway. AE is a bacterial infection of the supraglottic structures. Breathing difficulties are often thought of as a strong predictor of the intervention to the airway. AE is considered an emergency due to the chance for airway narrowing. Clinical presentations are alone insufficient for the diagnosis of AE. Fibreoptic nasopharyngolaryngoscopic examination should be performed as soon as possible for confirmation of diagnosis. As AE is a life-threatening infection, it warrants immediate diagnosis and treatment. Antibiotics are the mainstay of the initial treatment along with corticosteroids which act as potential adjuncts. This review article describes the aetiopathology, epidemiology, clinical presentations, diagnosis and current treatment of AE. A multidisciplinary approach and immediate therapeutic measures are imperative to ensure the safety of the airway through basic and invasive procedures, in addition to strict postprocedural follow-up. This approach is fundamental to optimize health outcomes among these patients. Early diagnosis and prompt management of epiglottitis are critical to prevent severe complications. Increased awareness and timely intervention significantly improve patient outcomes.

KEYWORDS

Acute epiglottitis, Upper Air Ways Obstruction, Laryngeal, Major salivary glands