

WHAT IS COUGH?

Cough is the result of inflammation and/or irritation of the airways in the lungs, as well as sometimes the lung tissue itself.

WHAT CAUSES COUGH?

This can be due to disease that originates from within the respiratory system (lungs and airways) itself, heart disease, and sometimes due to gastrointestinal disease (acid reflux).

WHAT TESTS ARE USED TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF COUGH?

Several tests are typically performed to try and differentiate between these causes. These can include:

- Bloodwork to assess overall health
- Radiographs of the chest
- Sonogram of the heart (echocardiogram)
- Bronchoscopy (camera that looks down the windpipe) with concurrent airway sampling. These are usually required when a patient has had a cough for longer than a month and especially if they have been having trouble breathing.

WHAT IS THE PROGNOSIS WITH COUGH?

Treatment and prognosis are largely depended on the underlying cause of the cough. This can sometimes require life-long therapy.