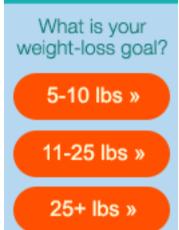
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Definition <b>Causes</b> When to see a doctor	Causes By Mayo Clinic Staff Several factors are needed to co tissues in your body with oxyger		MAYO C	Advertisement X YO CLINIC NG GLUTEN-FREE	
Products and services The Mayo Clinic Diet	<ul> <li>There must be enough oxyge</li> <li>Your lungs must be able to in and exhale carbon dioxide</li> </ul>	•	quida to ma	naging MAYO CLINIC Se and Going	



• Your bloodstream must be able to circulate blood to your lungs, take up the oxygen and carry it throughout your body

A problem with any of these factors — for example, high altitude, asthma or heart disease — might result in hypoxemia, particularly under more extreme conditions, such as exercise or illness. When your blood oxygen falls below a certain level, you might experience shortness of breath, headache, and confusion or restlessness.

Common causes of hypoxemia include:

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- Anemia • <u>ARDS</u> (Acute respiratory distress syndrome)
- Asthma
- <u>Congenital heart defects in children</u>
- <u>Congenital heart disease in adults</u>
- <u>COPD</u> (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) exacerbation - worsening of symptoms
- Emphysema
- Interstitial lung disease
- Medications, such as certain narcotics and anesthetics, that depress breathing
- Pneumonia
- Pneumothorax (collapsed lung)
- Pulmonary edema (excess fluid in the lungs) •
- Pulmonary embolism (blood clot in an artery in the lung)
- Pulmonary fibrosis (scarred and damaged lungs)
- Sleep apnea

Causes shown here are commonly associated with this symptom. Work with your doctor or other health care professional for an accurate diagnosis.



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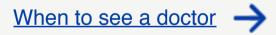
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Symptoms > Hypoxemia > Basics > Causes

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