

Clinical Scenario

What are Velcro crackles?

Velcro sounding crackles are a type of fine crackles heard in interstitial fibrosis. They have a distinctive character and are also described as "close to the ear" or "cellophane" crackles. Their sound is similar to the sound of hair rubbed between the fingers. In mild or early stages of interstitial lung disease, they are late inspiratory and are best heard at the basal areas of the lung, with the patient sitting upright. As the disease progresses, these fines crackle may become pan-inspiratory and may extend to higher levels above the lung bases.

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