

**DEFINITION**

1. The paranasal sinuses are extensions of the nasal cavity within the maxillary, frontal and ethmoid bones of the skull. They are lined with a similar mucosa to that of the nasal cavity, communicate with the nasal cavity and their secretions drain through openings into the nasal passages. They normally contain air and are ventilated through those openings.
2. **Sinusitis** is inflammation of these sinuses.

**CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS**

3. The condition may be either **acute** or **chronic**.
4. Considerable malaise accompanies acute sinusitis, with mucopurulent rhinorrhoea, nasal obstruction and facial pain/frontal headache, with or without upper toothache.
5. Tenderness may be present over the affected sinus and on tapping the upper teeth. The nasal mucosa is swollen and pus may be seen in the middle meatus.
6. The symptoms are much the same in both acute and chronic forms except that, in the latter, the symptoms are usually less severe than in the former and pain and swelling may be absent.

**AETIOLOGY**

7. **Acute sinusitis** is a mixed bacterial infection secondary to viral rhino-sinusitis or more rarely apical/periodontal disease.
8. **Chronic sinusitis**, in 80% of cases, is predisposed to by allergic/vasomotor rhinitis.
9. The mechanism is usually obstruction to free drainage of the sinus. Common causes are -
  - 9.1. deviations of the nasal septum.
  - 9.2. enlargement of the middle turbinate.
  - 9.3. chronic generalised oedema of the nasal mucosa due to allergic/vasomotor rhinitis.
  - 9.4. nasal mucous polyps.

**CONCLUSION**

10. **Sinusitis** is a condition in which there is inflammation of the lining of the paranasal sinuses. The condition may be acute or chronic and may follow upon changes to the internal structure of the nose or upon allergic/vasomotor rhinitis.

## REFERENCES

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