

Post Surgery Information

Discomfort, pain and a fever are also normal after surgery. However, call the doctor if your child has any of the following:

- Fever over 102° F
- Severe pain that prescribed medication does not relieve
- Bright red bleeding

Possible Complications

There are a number of risks associated with any surgical procedure. These risks include excessive bleeding and anesthesia complications such as allergic or adverse reactions to medications. An anesthesia care provider will carefully monitor your child throughout the procedure. The risks of anesthesia are very small, but you are encouraged to discuss your concerns with the anesthesiologist prior to surgery.

Some post-operative risks that are specifically related to tonsil and/or adenoid surgery include delayed bleeding from the tonsillar area; post-operative infection; unusual scarring of the soft palate and tissues in the back of the throat; and problems sealing the soft palate against the back wall of the throat. You are encouraged to discuss these risks with your child's physician prior to surgery. You should understand the risks before signing the 'Informed Consent' prior to surgery.

Additional Information

For online information about your physician or directions to our office, please visit our website at www.VirginiaENT.com. For additional information on tonsils and adenoids, visit www.ENTnet.org. This brochure is for your information regarding surgery, but should not be considered medical advice except in conjunction with a consultation with your child's physician.

Locations

1. **St. Mary's Hospital**
South Medical Office Building
5875 Bremono Road, Suite 303
Richmond, Virginia 23226
2. **Midlothian**
161 Wadsworth Drive
Richmond, Virginia 23236
3. **Hanover**
7485 Right Flank Road, Suite 210
Mechanicsville, Virginia 23116
4. **Virginia Ear, Nose & Throat Surgery Center**
402 Westhampton Station
Richmond, Virginia 23221

Physicians

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Pediatric & Adult Otolaryngology
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Voice, Speech & Swallowing Therapy
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For an appointment please call:

(804) 484-3700

For more information visit:

VirginiaENT.com

Tonsils & Adenoids Surgery & Care

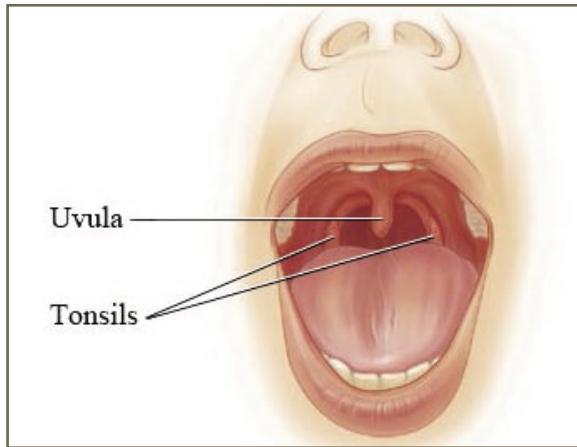


Virginia Ear, Nose & Throat
ASSOCIATES

*Setting the standard for excellence in
ear, nose and throat care.*

What are Tonsils & Adenoids?

The tonsils and adenoids are oval collections of tissue similar to the lymph nodes found in the neck, groin and armpits. Tonsils are the two masses located in the back of the throat, on the right and left sides. A thin layer of moist skin, called the anterior tonsillar pillar, covers the front part of the tonsils. The uvula hangs down from the middle of the soft palate located between the tonsils.



The adenoids are located above the soft palate, high on the back wall of the throat near the Eustachian tubes. These masses are not visible through the mouth without special instruments. The Eustachian tubes are small air passages that connect the space under the eardrum with the back of the nose. When you clear your ears on an airplane, you are equalizing air pressure through these tubes.

The primary purpose of the tonsils and adenoids is to trap and destroy viruses and bacteria. Some children and adults are prone to develop infections of the tonsils and adenoids. These infections can be caused by many different kinds of bacteria; although the one most people hear about is streptococcus (strep throat). If these infections are especially severe, or if they occur frequently, it may be best to remove the tonsils and/or adenoids.

Removing the tonsils or adenoids does not cause any problems with the immune system. In fact, if frequent infections have been a problem, then removing them can make the immune system's job easier. Large adenoids and tonsils blocking the airway can cause heavy snoring, constant mouth breathing, or apnea. This can be another reason for surgery in certain patients. In some cases, a person's overall health can be significantly improved by removal of the tonsils and/or adenoids. Each patient is different and results may vary.

Benefits of surgery can include fewer sore throats, decreased snoring and mouth breathing, fewer ear infections, fresher breath, and improved quality of voice.

If surgery is recommended, and you proceed, we will schedule the surgery and assist you with any necessary insurance pre-authorization. Your child's otolaryngologist will perform the tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy at the Virginia, Ear, Nose & Throat Surgery Center (a private AAAHC-accredited center developed to minimize the stress associated with traditional surgery settings.) The surgery can also be performed as an outpatient procedure at a local hospital.

Tonsillectomy & Adenoidectomy

Once your child's surgery is scheduled, you will be given pre-operative and post-operative instructions. The night before surgery, your child should not eat or drink anything after midnight. On the morning of surgery, the anesthesia care team will gently put your child to sleep. The surgeon will then remove the tonsils and/or the adenoids. The procedure takes approximately 30 minutes.

Your child will usually be ready to go home 2 hours after surgery. Before you leave, a nurse will review postoperative instructions and answer any questions you may have. Your child may still be drowsy or have some nausea from the anesthesia when you leave the hospital.

Recovering at Home

You should have cool drinks and cold desserts ready at home. These snacks will soothe your child's throat and help him/her get enough fluid. Be sure to give your child enough time at home to recover. Limit activity for two weeks following surgery. Also, expect your child to have some ear pain one to two weeks after a tonsillectomy. Call the doctor if medication does not relieve the pain.

It is very important to watch your child's diet following surgery, paying particular attention to:

- **Fluids** – Give your child lots of fluids, such as water, popsicles, diluted non-acidic juices, and non-carbonated caffeine-free drinks.
- **Nutrients** – Serve soft foods, such as gelatin, ice cream, pudding, scrambled eggs, pasta, and mashed foods.
- **Avoid** – Hot, spicy and rough foods such as high-citrus fruits, toast, crackers & potato chips.

Medications may be prescribed for your child. Use only medications approved by your child's doctor, and use as directed.

- *Pain medication may be prescribed for ear pain or to help with swallowing.*
- *Antibiotics may be prescribed to avoid infection.*
- **Avoid medicines that contain ibuprofen or aspirin.** They may cause bleeding. Medicines with acetaminophen are a better choice.

When to Call the Doctor

White patches in the throat are not a sign of infection, but are normal and part of the healing process after surgery. However, they may cause bad breath. Bleeding may also occur after the first week, when the white patches come off. Keeping the throat moist with fluids will help prevent crusting and bleeding.