



Post-Operative Instructions after Tonsillectomy with or without Adenoidectomy

What To Do

1. **Fluid Intake:** This is **extremely** important over the next several days to prevent dehydration. Encourage fluid intake throughout the day. All liquids and fluid filled products are OK. Small amounts of fluid every hour while awake works well.

Suggestions:

- Water, juice, Gatorade, soda, milk
 - Milkshakes, smoothies, popsicles, ice cream
 - Puddings, apple sauce, yogurt, Jell-O, soup, watermelon
2. **Diet:** A **regular diet** can begin immediately with no restrictions. If there is a type of food that your child prefers, regardless of texture or temperature, you can feel comfortable starting it as soon as possible. Avoid chips or hard foods that can scratch the throat for 2 weeks.
 3. **Chewing:** gum, gummy bears, fruit chews etc. This helps to reduce muscle spasm and promotes oral hygiene by increasing salivary flow postoperatively.
 4. **Activity:** Resume **normal activity** as soon as possible. There is no need for prolonged bed rest. School aged children can return to school as soon as they feel up to it.
 5. **Pain medication:** The doctor will instruct you on use of the following:

Children: Tylenol and ibuprofen should be given to your child while awake right away after surgery. Tylenol is given every 4 hours and ibuprofen every 6 hours. A stronger, narcotic pain medicine can be avoided in most case

Adults: A stronger pain medication will be prescribed: These include Tylenol with codeine, Lortab/Vicodin, or oxycodone. Ibuprofen is typically not started right away in adults.

What to Expect

The pain and discomfort one experiences after a tonsillectomy varies from 1 – 2 weeks. This is usually due to irritation and spasm of the muscles in the throat. Generally, each day is better than the previous one. Sometimes around the 5th or 7th day after the operation the patient may experience a transient worsening of pain (“dip”) for 1-2 days.



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Things to be aware of

- 1) **Ear Pain**- this is “referred” from the throat and generally is not an ear infection. Chewing may help reduce some of this discomfort.
- 2) **Temperature**- it is not unusual for the temperature to reach 102° post-op. If it is greater than **103°**, please call us. Always encourage fluids with a fever.
- 3) **White patch over tonsil region**- this is the “scab” and is normal. It is not an infection. It will disappear about 10 days after surgery.
- 4) **Bleeding**- The chance for post-operative bleeding is small (1%- 2%). These are the important points you should know about bleeding:
 - **When:** It usually happens around the 5th – 10th day after the operation.
 - **How will you know:** the patient will ***spit up or vomit*** blood.
 - **What do you do:** We would like for the patient to gargle ice water for a few minutes to see if this stops the bleeding. If so, that is all that needs to be done. If the bleeding persists, please call our office immediately to discuss the situation with our physicians and/or go to the Emergency Room.

Follow- up: You will generally follow-up with your surgeon one month after a tonsillectomy.