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## **RISKS AND COMPLICATIONS TONSILLECTOMY, ADENOIDECTOMY, ADENOTONSILLECTOMY**

Removal of tonsils and/or adenoids is one of the most frequently performed throat operations. It has proven to be a safe, effective method to resolve breathing obstruction, chronic tonsillitis, and manage recurrent childhood ear disease.

A tonsillectomy does not eliminate the patient from having a sore throat. Pain following surgery is an unpleasant side effect, which can be reasonably controlled with medication. It is similar to the pain patients have experienced with throat infections, but often is also felt in the ears after surgery.

There are also some risks associated with removal of tonsils and/or adenoids. Postoperative bleeding occurs in about 2% of cases, most often immediately; although it can occur at any time during the first 2 weeks after surgery. Treatment of bleeding is usually an outpatient procedure but sometimes requires control in the operating room under general anesthesia. In rare cases, a blood transfusion may be recommended.

Because swallowing is painful after surgery, there may be poor oral intake of fluids. If this cannot be corrected at home, the patient may be admitted to the hospital for IV fluid replacement

Anesthetic complications are known to exist. They are quite uncommon, however, since patients are usually young and healthy. Few patients experience a temporary change in taste.

I have read, understand, and considered the risks and complications of this surgery and accept them. I have been given written postoperative instructions to take with me. I understand these instructions and will follow them to the best of my ability.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_

**After Hours Number - 1-800-925-1318**