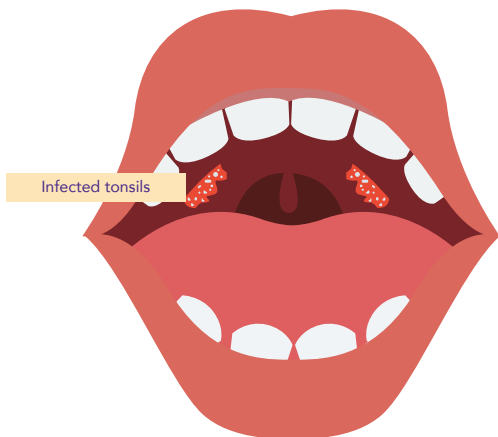


Explaining surgery to your child



TONSILLECTOMY & ADENOIDECTOMY

If you look in the mirror and open your mouth really big, you can see two pink bumps way in the back, over your tongue. Those are your tonsils. Tonsils help your body fight sickness and infection by catching germs. Behind your nose in the inside of your body there are two bumps also. These are called adenoids. Just like the tonsils, the adenoids job is to catch germs that come into your body.

When tonsils and adenoids are sick, they get bigger so they take up a lot of space in your mouth. This can cause problems and make it hard for you to breathe. A special doctor can help your mouth and throat get better by removing you tonsils and/or adenoids.

On the day when your tonsils or adenoids are coming out, you won't have breakfast. You will go to the doctor's office and a nurse will give you special clothes and warm socks to wear. You will also get a bracelet with your name on it! The doctor and the nurses will be wearing special hospital clothes too — even a puffy blue hat. When the doctor is ready, you will ride on your bed (it has wheels!) into another room with someone from your family. The lights will be bright, but this helps the doctors to see better. You will move to another bed and lie down. A nurse will give you an astronaut's mask to help you breathe special air that has medicine in it. She will even let you choose a flavor (strawberry, banana, bubble gum, root beer)! This will make you feel dizzy and sleepy. You will stay asleep until the doctor is all done making your mouth feel better. When you wake up, you will be resting in another room. Your nose and mouth will feel scratchy and sore. There might even be a straw under your arm which gives your body special medicine to make you feel better. You will go home very soon!

What to Expect

- Bad breath or bad smell from nose
- Ear pain
- Yellow, green, grey, white coloring in mouth
- Fevers intermittently around 101° F
- Feeling like something is stuck in back of throat (often due to swollen uvula)
- Change in voice
- Some oozing of blood from nose

Go to the ED if

- There is concern for not drinking/urinating enough (not eating is okay for the first week, but should be able to drink)
- Bleeding from the mouth
- Neck stiffness (neck discomfort is normal, stiffness is not)
- Fever persistent above 101.5° F