



## Intracapsular tonsillectomy (1 of 5) - What are tonsils and what problems can they cause?



**easy-read**



This leaflet is part of the EASY-READ series for people with learning difficulties.

The original leaflet is available [here](#).

# Intracapsular tonsillectomy

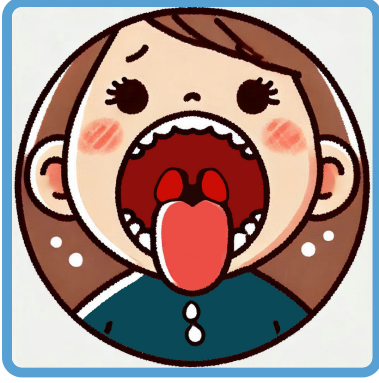
PART 1 OF 5

What are tonsils and what problems can they cause?



*Click on each of the following questions to discover the answers.*

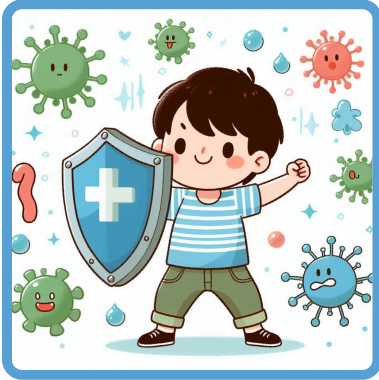
## WHAT ARE TONSILS?



**Tonsils are glands.**

**They sit at the back of the throat.**

**There is one on the left and one on the right.**



**They help fight germs and infections.**

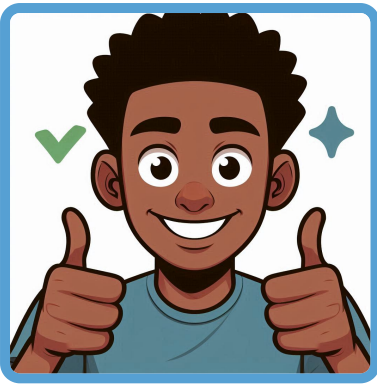
## DOES MY CHILD NEED TONSILS?



**Tonsils are important to fight germs when you are a young child.**



**After the age of three, they become less important.**

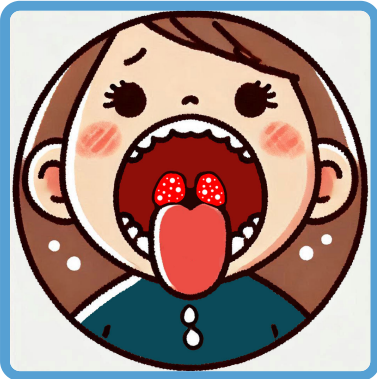


You can still fight germs without tonsils.

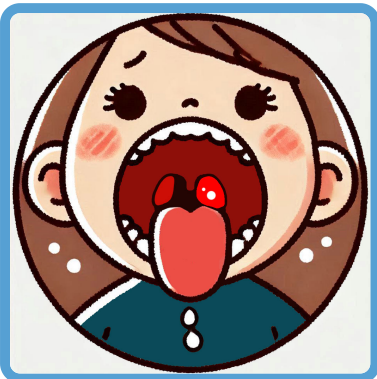


The tonsils may need to be removed if they are making you poorly.

## WHAT PROBLEMS CAN TONSILS CAUSE?



TONSILLITIS

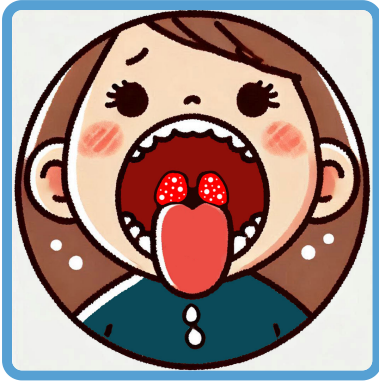


QUINSY



SLEEP-RELATED BREATHING DISORDER

## WHAT IS TONSILLITIS?



**TONSILLITIS** is an infection of the tonsils.

The picture shows large red tonsils covered in white spots.



It can be caused by a virus or bacteria.



**Tonsillitis** can give you:

- a high temperature



- a sore throat

- swollen glands in the neck

- pain when swallowing



Your child feels very tired and unwell for 3 to 4 days.



**Some children miss a lot of school when they have a lot of tonsillitis**

## HOW DO YOU TREAT TONSILLITIS?



**Tonsillitis caused by a virus is treated with painkillers and lots of rest.**



**Saltwater mouth rinses can make tonsillitis less painful and reduce how often your child gets it.  
Some young children find mouth rinses difficult.**

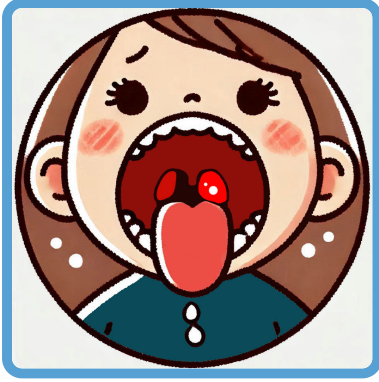


**Tonsillitis caused by bacteria is treated with antibiotics.  
Painkillers and lots of rest are important too.**

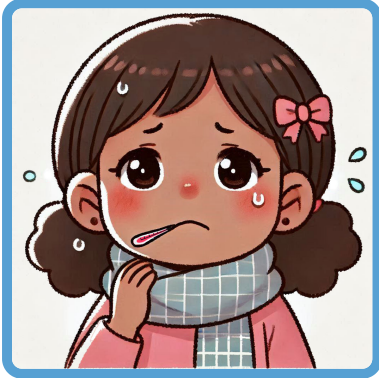


**Too many courses of antibiotics can cause other problems.**

## WHAT IS A QUINSY?



Pus can collect next to the infected tonsil. This is called a QUINSY.



It can cause a high temperature and a very sore throat.

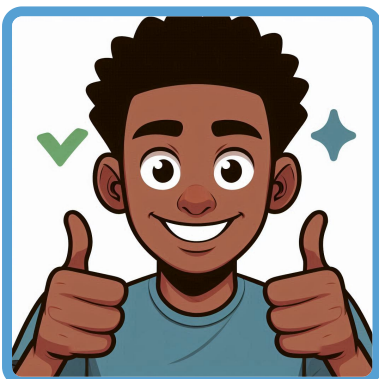
Usually, one side feels worse than the other.



Your child may find it hard to open their mouth.



The pus will need to be removed to get relief.



This can be done under local anaesthetic in older children.

Local anesthetic is a medicine that makes one spot on your body sleepy. This will stop you feeling any pain.



Younger children will need to be asleep under general anaesthetic.

General anaesthetic is a type of medicine that makes your whole body go to sleep. You have this during operations.



The tonsils are removed, and the pus is drained while your child is asleep.



Your child will also be given painkillers and antibiotics.

## WHAT IS A SLEEP-RELATED BREATHING DISORDER?



**SLEEP-RELATED BREATHING DISORDER**



Large tonsils can cause snoring.



It can also cause breathing pauses when your child sleeps.

It may sound like your child has stopped breathing for a few seconds.



It can make your child feel very tired during the day.

## WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS A LOT OF PROBLEMS WITH THEIR TONSILS?



Your child might need an operation called tonsillectomy.

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS DOCUMENT



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**FEEDBACK SURVEY**



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**Date Published:** 14/01/2025 **Review Date:** 14/01/2028