



Intracapsular tonsillectomy (5 of 5) - Risks of the operation



easy-read



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

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

Intracapsular tonsillectomy

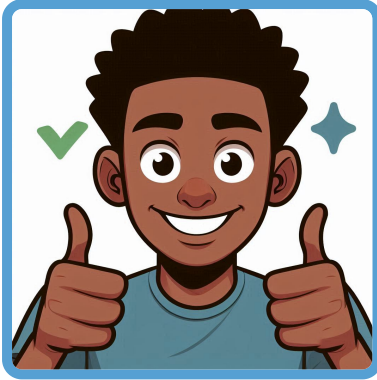
PART 5 OF 5

Risks of the operation



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

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF A TONSILLECTOMY?

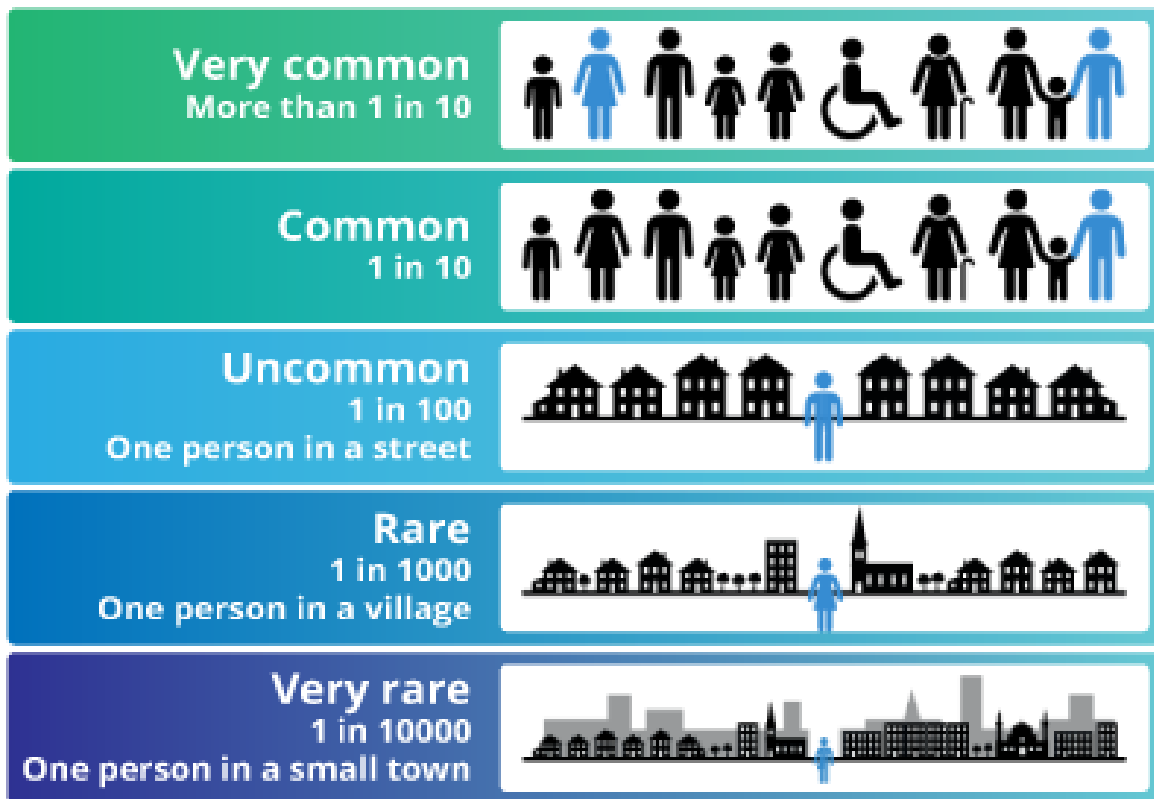


TONSIL OPERATION is usually very safe



However, every operation has some risks

COMPLICATIONS fall into the following groups



BLEEDING

The most serious problem after a tonsillectomy is bleeding

Intracapsular tonsillectomy has a much **LOWER RISK** of bleeding than other types of tonsillectomy



Bleeding affects 2 out of 1000 children having this operation



A very small number of these will need a second operation to stop the bleeding



If your child spits, vomits or coughs up bright red blood or clots take them to the EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT right away



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INFECTION

Some children get a throat infection in the first two weeks after the operation



This usually happens if they have not been eating properly



You may notice a high temperature ($38^{\circ}\text{C}/100^{\circ}\text{F}$ or above) that does not go down and a bad smell from your child's throat



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Speak to your GP or the hospital for advice



Damage to teeth, lips and gums

Your child's mouth is kept open during the operation with an instrument

This sits on the teeth



It is NOT COMMON to damage, break, or lose a tooth



Sometimes a small amount of the tonsil may be left behind

Sometimes this may grow back



This could mean previous tonsil problems also return



Around 2 in 100 children will need a second operation to remove this if it causes problems



GENERAL ANAESTHETIC

The operation takes place under general anaesthetic

Your child will be asleep during the operation



This is **VERY SAFE** for children

You will be told about the risks of a general anaesthetic

WHO DO I CONTACT IF THERE ARE PROBLEMS?



Please contact the day surgery unit or your GP if your child has the following problems:



Difficulty swallowing liquids



Painkillers do not help with their pain



A high temperature that does not go down



— 999 —

Go straight to your nearest **EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT** if your child has any of the following:



Difficulty breathing



Spitting out bright red blood or clots

Vomiting bright red, black or brown vomit

This could be blood and needs to be checked

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS DOCUMENT



**DOWN'S
SYNDROME
ASSOCIATION**



**british
association for
paediatric
otolaryngology**



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FEEDBACK SURVEY



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