Tonsillectomy and adenotonsillectomy

Indications for surgery are

- Recurrent documented tonsillitis requiring antibiotic treatment (>7 episodes in one year; >5 episodes in each of the previous 2 years; >3 episodes per year for 3 years)
- Recurrent quinsy
- Obstructive sleep apnoea in children
- Suspected neoplasm
- Recurrent tonsilloliths and halitosis

Information Required

- Presence of red flags
- Duration of symptoms
- Treatment prescribed
- Child’s age and weight (children < 2 years of age or weight < 15 kgs must be referred to the Women’s and Children’s Hospital)

Helpful Investigations

- Epstein Barr Virus Serology, Full Blood Count

Fax Referrals to

- ENT Clinic Fax:  8374 4928

Red Flags

- Unilateral tonsillitis or tonsillar enlargement in a smoker
- Abnormal imaging with suspected malignancy is reported

Suggested GP Management

For recurrent tonsillitis
- Oral antibiotics

For recurrent large tonsilloliths
- Oral rinses e.g. curasept, dilute hydrogen peroxide (1:3 with water)
- Referral indicated only if meets indications above

Clinical Resources


Patient Information


General Information to assist with referrals and the and Referral templates for FMC and RGH are available to download from the SALHN Outpatient Services website www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/SALHNoutpatients