

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Ear, Nose and Throat Department (ENT)

Coblation adenoidectomy and intracapsular tonsillectomy

What is coblation?

Coblation is a word derived from controlled ablation. Coblation technology is a surgical technique that precisely removes tissue at relatively cooler temperatures (40-70 °C) as compared to other technology like electrocautery (400-600 °C). It is increasingly preferred by ENT surgeons for removing adenoids and tonsils.

How is coblation adenoidectomy different?

Coblation adenoidectomy only differs in the technology used.

How is coblation intracapsular tonsillectomy different?

Coblation has been used around the world for a number of years to remove tonsils in the traditional way – a bit like shelling out a grape which leaves behind exposed muscle and cauterised vessels, which involves pain and risk of bleeding. Coblation intracapsular tonsillectomy is different in that it involves removing most of the tonsil tissue, apart from a small area near the tonsil capsule (the covering of the tonsil).

What are the advantages?

- Minimal damage to the neighbouring healthy tissue.
- Less blood loss.
- Less pain.
- Early return to normal diet.
- Quicker return to normal activities including getting back to school.
- Reduced chance of re-attending and Emergency Department or of re-admission.

What are the disadvantages?

Since a tiny bit of tonsil tissue is left behind the capsule, there is a small (2- 3%) chance of re-growth of tonsils needing repeat surgery in the future.

Further Information

For further information about tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy in general, please refer to the standard information sheet(s) provided.

Contact details

If you need further information about your appointment, please contact the ENT team secretaries via switchboard. The telephone number is 01623 622515.

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net.

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