

Your Child's Tonsillectomy: Before Surgery

A tonsillectomy is a surgery to remove the tonsils.

Tonsillectomies treat certain throat problems that come back often or don't get better, such as breathing problems, tonsil infections, or strep throat.

You can see the tonsils when your child opens their mouth wide.

The tonsils are two small bumps on either side of the throat, above and behind the tongue.

They may look red or swollen and have pus or white spots.

The doctor will remove the tonsils through the mouth.

Before the surgery, your child will get medicine so they won't feel anything during the procedure.

Your child will likely go home 2 to 4 hours after surgery.

Before the surgery, tell the doctors ALL the medicines, vitamins, supplements, and herbal remedies your child takes.

Some of these can increase the risk of bleeding or interact with anesthesia.

Your doctor will tell you which medicines your child should take or stop before surgery.

And follow your doctor's directions for preparing your child, including when your child should stop eating and drinking.

Bring your photo ID and any other paperwork your hospital may have asked for.

Ask if you can bring a favorite toy or blanket to help comfort your child.

Surgery may be stressful for you and your child.

But knowing what to expect and how to prepare can help.

Recovery and healing take time.

But if you have any questions or concerns, you can always call your doctor.

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