

Tonsillitis

Tonsillitis is when the tonsils, the fleshy pads on each side of the back of the throat, become infected with a virus or bacteria. A common childhood ailment, tonsillitis causes the tonsils to become swollen and painful.

Most cases of tonsillitis are caused by a virus and are treated at home with over-the-counter sore throat remedies. In some cases, tonsillitis is caused by a bacterial infection and antibiotics are needed. If the infections keep coming back more than twice a year, it is necessary to get a tonsillectomy (surgical removal of the tonsils)

Symptoms

- Red, swollen tonsils
- White patches on the tonsils
- Sore throat
- Difficult or painful swallowing
- Headache
- Fever and chills
- Enlarged, tender glands (lymph nodes) in the jaw and neck
- Loss of voice (laryngitis)

When bacteria and viruses enter your body through your nose or mouth, your tonsils act as a filter . This can cause a low-grade infection in your tonsils. Tonsillitis occurs when the infection gets more serious, and the tonsils become painful and inflamed.

In some cases, tonsillitis is caused by a virus. In other cases, tonsillitis is caused by a bacterial infection. When tonsillitis is due to a specific type of bacteria, the illness is also referred to as strep throat.

We can help you determine whether it is time for a tonsillectomy or if waiting is the best thing to do at this point.