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TONSILLECTOMY/ADENOIDECTOMY INFORMED CONSENT

Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy are procedures performed to remove enlarged and/or recurrently infected tonsils and adenoids. The surgery is intended to treat patients with airway obstructive symptoms due to large tonsils and adenoids, and/or patients with chronic or recurrent adenotonsillar infections. The operation is done under general anesthesia.

As with any surgery there are both potential benefits and risks. You must keep in mind that you may not benefit from the surgery. The following information will help you understand the risks of tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy. As with any operation, there may be some unanticipated complications in addition to the listed here.

Infection: A local infection may occur in the tonsillectomy bed. If an infection does occur, it can easily be treated with antibiotics.

Post-operative bleeding: Bleeding can be immediate, within the first twelve hours after surgery, or it can be delayed, occurring sometimes one week to ten days after surgery. Every effort is made during the operation to prevent immediate bleeding. Delayed bleeding is usually due to separation of the scab covering the surgical bed. Delayed bleeding is not as dangerous as primary bleeding, but fatalities can occur very rarely and patients may rarely require transfusions.

Pain: Post-operative pain is very common and can last up to two weeks. Patients may complain of sore throat and ear pain. Ear pain is typically referred from the throat and rarely due to an ear infection. Pain can be treated with Tylenol, or sometimes with stronger analgesics.

Voice Change: An occasional patient may develop a different quality of voice after tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy. Usually this is described as "nasal speech" and it can be permanent, although rarely.

Results: Even after tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy, patients can still have occasional sore throats and ear infections.

Anesthesia: There are risks associated with any type of anesthesia including but not limited to respiratory problems, drug reaction, brain damage or even death. Other risks and hazards that may result from the use of general anesthetics include but are not limited to minor discomfort due to injury to the vocal cords, teeth or eyes. You can discuss these risks with your anesthesiologist before your surgery.

I have read, understand and accept the risks and complications of this operation. I have made known to my physicians any medical term appearing in this form with which I am unfamiliar and all such medical terms have been explained to my satisfaction. Alternative types of treatment have been discussed with me and I want to go ahead with surgery.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print name: _____

Witness: _____