

ST. NICHOLAS HOSPITAL HEALTHSOURCE

What is an Adenoidectomy?

Swollen adenoids, small lumps of lymphoid tissue that lie at the very back of the nose, are often associated with tonsillitis. In childhood, the adenoids are useful in developing immunity against infections. However, by the time a person reaches adulthood, the adenoids usually shrink until they disappear.

Before that time, however, adenoids can pose problems, particularly between the ages of two and six. Viral infections can cause the adenoids to swell and become inflamed. This can make breathing difficult, especially when asleep. Swollen adenoids can also block the Eustachian tube, a tube that connects the back of the throat to the middle part of the ear. This can lead to a condition, which adversely affects a young child's hearing.

If your doctor determines that the adenoids are blocking your child's ability to breathe through the nose and/or they cause repeated earaches and loss of hearing, he/she may recommend an adenoidectomy.

An ear, nose and throat surgeon performs this surgery, which is usually an outpatient procedure. Prior to the surgery, your child will need to avoid food and drink for about six hours. The surgery itself is simple. Done under general anesthesia, it involves removing the adenoid tissue with special instruments. Any discomfort is usually mild and controlled with Tylenol®.

Patients can usually resume normal activities within a few days.



Andrew C. Campbell, MD

Sheboygan Ear, Nose and Throat
Campbell Facial Plastic Surgery
Paragon Medical Center
1411 North Taylor Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53081
920/457-2100



St. Nicholas Hospital

3100 Superior Avenue
Sheboygan, WI 53081
920/459-8300

www.stnicholashospital.org

An Affiliate of Hospital Sisters Health System

In Partnership With

PHYSICIANS'
HEALTH NETWORK