

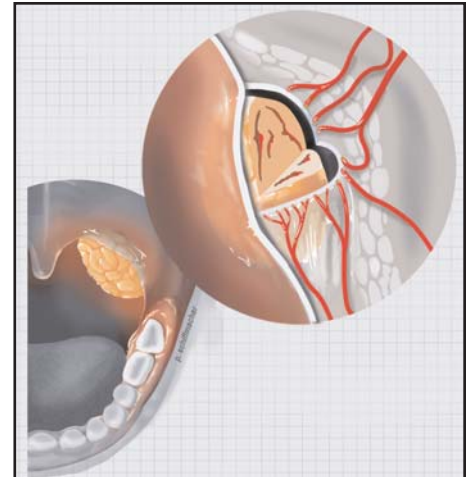
## “Intra-Capsular” Tonsillectomy or “Extra-Capsular” Tonsillectomy?

The Tonsils are lymphoid organs that are located in the back of the throat. Adenoids are at the back of the nose. The Tonsils, and the Adenoids form a ring of tissue that traps viruses and bacteria and protects us.

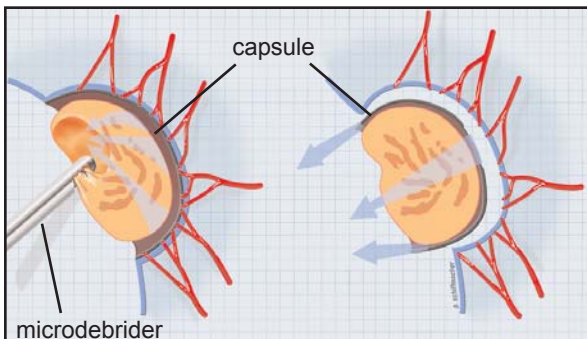
Tonsil and adenoid tissue may become infected and swollen and can enlarge. Large tonsils and adenoids will block the passage of air through the mouth and the nose, particularly during sleep. Doctors call this “apnea.” Apnea is the most common reason to remove tonsils and/or adenoids (T&A). Chronic tonsillitis is the second most common reason for tonsil surgery.

Traditional Tonsillectomy (T&A) surgery is performed by an “Extra-Capsular” technique, which removes all of the tonsil tissue, including the capsule.

This surgery exposes the deeper muscles, the larger blood vessels and nerve endings to bacteria and saliva in the mouth. Delayed or poor healing of this muscle tissue cause the two most common complications of “Extra-Capsular” T&A surgery — throat pain and bleeding.



*Left: Tonsil located on side of throat.  
Right: Blood vessels enter side of tonsil from larger vessels deep in neck.*



*Left: Intracapsular Surgery with Powered Microdebrider. Tonsil tissue removed, capsule left intact.  
Right: Extracapsular removal of tonsil and capsule, exposing muscles, blood vessels and nerves.*

“Intra-capsular” T&A is new and uses a powered shaver (microdebrider) to only remove tonsil tissue. The surgeon leaves the tonsil capsule in place and avoids exposing the muscles, blood vessels and nerves.

The chances of complications, such as throat pain and bleeding, are reduced because the operation does not go as deep. The surgeon can precisely shave out the tonsil tissue and leave the minimal tonsil tissue.

The capsule remains in place to help with healing and protect the muscles, blood vessels and nerves. Fortunately, the risk that residual tonsil tissue could need further tonsil surgery is rare.

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