INTRACAPSULAR TONSILLECTOMY VS EXTRACAPSULAR TONSILLECTOMY : A SAFETY COMPARISON

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Post tonsillectomy haemorrhage remains a significant complication despite modifications of technique and instrumentation. Intracapsular tonsillectomy spares the capsule as a protective barrier for underlying blood vessels and musculature. Its efficacy in children with sleep disordered breathing, along with lowered rates of haemorrhage and pain has been established, but research pertaining to adults and in recurrent infections has been limited.

Method: This retrospective study encompassing 730 patients, compared post-operative haemorrhage rates between extracapsular (n=379) and intracapsular tonsillectomy (n=351) across all ages and indications using Coblation™ technology.

Results: A significant difference in post-operative haemorrhage rate was observed between extracapsular and intracapsular tonsillectomy techniques (2.1% vs 0.3%) (p=0.025). In addition, age \geq 18 years was also found to be an independent risk factor for post-operative haemorrhage (p=0.01).

Conclusion : Thus, demonstrating Coblation[™] intracapsular tonsillectomy to be safe and effective across all ages and indications, with a low risk of bleeding and revision surgery.

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