While the tonsils act as a line of defense for the body, they can become infected and inflamed, a condition called tonsillitis. This can cause difficulty in eating, swallowing and breathing, persistent throat pain and fever. Enlarged tonsils can also cause a condition known as sleep apnea, in which the tonsils block the airway during sleep, resulting in snoring and interrupted breathing.

In some cases, tonsillitis is temporary and the tonsils will heal on their own, but frequent or chronic tonsillitis may require surgical removal of the tonsils, a procedure referred to as tonsillectomy. Performed for more than 2,000 years, tonsillectomies are today one of the most common surgical procedures.
References:

Facts you should know about tonsillectomy.
What are the symptoms of tonsillitis?

Patients with tonsillitis can experience:

- Sore throat
- Red, swollen tonsils
- White or yellow patches or coating on the tonsils
- Difficulty breathing, swallowing and/or talking
- Fever
- Headache
- Swollen lymph nodes (the glands in the jaw and neck)
- Bad breath
- Abdominal pain (particularly in children)
When is a tonsillectomy needed?

A tonsillectomy may be required when a patient:

- Experiences frequent or chronic tonsillitis (inflammation of the tonsils and throat pain)
- Has multiple bouts of peritonsillar abscess, a complication of tonsillitis
- Has sleep apnea (obstructing/stopping breathing at night due to enlarged tonsils)
- Has difficulty eating or swallowing due to enlarged tonsils

An otolaryngologist is a specialist in disorders of the ear, nose and throat, including the tonsils. He or she will discuss your medical history, conduct a thorough medical examination and determine whether or not surgery is required.

What surgical options are available for tonsillectomy?

Typical treatment options include:

- **Scalpel**: The surgeon uses a scalpel to cut away the tonsils and then sutures the tissue in the throat from which the tonsils are removed.
- **Electrosurgery**: The surgeon uses an electrosurgery device to transmit electrical energy into the patient, cauterizing or burning the tonsils and the tissue in the throat from which the tonsils are removed.
- **Ultrasonic Energy**: The surgeon uses an ultrasonic device, which removes the tonsils utilizing high-frequency vibration.
- **Controlled Ablation**: The surgeon transmits radiofrequency energy through a saline solution, which causes the molecular bond to break apart and dissolve.

While tonsillectomy is one of the most common surgical procedures, patients often report that it is also one of the most painful. This is because many of the conventional devices used to remove the tonsils transmit energy through the patient, which can damage surrounding tissue and cause excessive bleeding and intense post-operative pain. As a result, it can take days or even weeks for a patient to fully recover and resume his or her normal activities.

For further information on Tonsillectomies and MiFusion Technology please visit www.entceptional.com
Is there a more advanced treatment option?

To improve the care and comfort of patients, ENT surgeons are now using a newer treatment option called ENTceps®, which utilizes a technology called Thermal Fusion. ENTceps® utilizes only direct heat and pressure to simultaneously remove the tonsils and fuse the remaining tissue in the throat. Because no electrical energy passes through the tissue, ENTceps® minimizes tissue damage. As a result, patients have experienced less pain and bleeding, fewer complications and a faster return to normal diet.¹

What should I expect during recovery?

The comfort and speed of a patient’s recovery will depend upon a variety of factors: the patient’s age, the technology used to perform the procedure and any complications incurred during the surgery.

The most common complications that patients experience after tonsillectomy include post-operative bleeding, post-operative pain and dehydration.

¹ For further information on Tonsillectomies and MiFusion Technology please visit www.entceptional.com