

# Study finds tonsillectomy just as safe for adults as kids

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Researchers found low complication rates, similar to those seen in children.

(HealthDay)—A new study offers reassurance for adults who need to have their tonsils removed—the procedure has low complication and low death rates.

Tonsil removal (tonsillectomy) is a common type of surgery, but there is little information about the safety of the operation in adults, the researchers noted.

The new study was published online Jan. 30 in the journal *JAMA Otolaryngology—Head & Neck Surgery*.

Researchers analyzed data from more than 5,900 U.S. adults who underwent tonsillectomy between 2005 and 2011. Of these patients, 1.2 percent had complications, 3.2 percent required another operation, and 0.03 percent died within 30 days after surgery, according to a journal news release.

The most common complications were pneumonia (27 percent of complications), urinary tract infections (27 percent) and surgical site infections (16 percent).

The findings show that the rates of complications

and death among adults who undergo [tonsillectomy](#) is low and similar to that of children who have the surgery, concluded Michelle Chen, of the Yale University School of Medicine, and colleagues.

**More information:** The U.S. National Library of Medicine has more about [tonsillectomy](#).

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