

POST-OP T&A HEMORRHAGE

Inclusion Criteria

- Tonsillectomy \leq 28 days ago
- Observed or reported bleeding from the tonsillar fossa **OR** hemoptysis **OR** hematemesis

Exclusion Criteria

- Known coagulopathy
- Craniofacial / airway abnormality

(*If either of above in the setting of recent tonsillectomy, consult ENT immediately*)

Bleeding can occur both <24 hours post-op (primary), and up to 21 days post-op as eschar falls off (secondary)

If not at Main Campus, consider transfer once stabilized - Patient Flow Center at (504) 842-3213

Active bleeding in the ED?



Management for **Yes** to active bleeding:

- Contact ENT immediately on arrival
- Obtain IV access, NPO
- Labs: CBC, PT/PTT, type and screen, fibrinogen
- IV fluid resuscitation as necessary
- Inhaled tranexamic acid (TXA)**
 - Dose (use IV formulation):
 - \leq 25 kg: 250 mg nebulized
 - $>$ 25 kg: 500 mg nebulized

** Inhaled TXA should NOT delay or alter definitive care

Management for **No** to active bleeding:

- Consult ENT
- Obtain IV access, NPO
- Labs: CBC, PT/PTT, type and screen, add BMP if concern for dehydration
- IV fluids as indicated
- Treat pain as necessary, avoid NSAIDs

Worsened bleeding and/or hemodynamic instability while awaiting ENT arrival?

Bleeding stopped

Admit to ENT



Management for **Yes** to worsened bleeding:

- Move to the resuscitation bay
- Call Anesthesia to prepare for emergent operative intervention
- Additional IVF, consider vasopressors
- Prepare PRBC transfusion
- Additional inhaled tranexamic acid (TXA)

Operative Intervention

*** FOR DEHYDRATION or PAIN WITHOUT BLEEDING ***

- IV access, CBC, BMP
- IV fluid resuscitation and maintenance IV fluids as indicated
- Dexamethasone IV/PO at 0.5 mg/kg (max dose 12 mg)
- PO/IV analgesia, avoid NSAIDs
- Disposition: Pending adequate hydration/PO intake + parental comfort
- ENT consult if admission is necessary

Approved by the Ochsner Children's Hospital Clinical Pathways Committee, February of 2025.
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References:

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- Dermendjeva M, Gopalsami A, Glennon N, Torbati S. Nebulized Tranexamic Acid in Secondary Post-Tonsillectomy Hemorrhage: Case Series and Review of the Literature. Clin Pract Cases Emerg Med. 2021 Aug;5(3):1-7. doi: 10.5811/cpcem.2021.5.52549. PMID: 34437029; PMCID: PMC8373187.
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- Sethi HK, Lafferty D, Tong JY. Predictive clinical exam findings in post-tonsillectomy hemorrhage. Int J Pediatr Otorhinolaryngol. 2021 May;144:110671. doi: 10.1016/j.ijporl.2021.110671. Epub 2021 Mar 11. PMID: 33730604.
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