

TONSILLITIS PATHOCHART

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

The tonsils are oval-shaped masses of tissue found on both sides of the back of the throat and help the immune system fight off bacteria and viruses that enter through the mouth. Tonsillitis occurs when the tonsils become inflamed or infected. As the tonsils become swollen, the airway may become blocked which is an emergency. Many cases resolve on their own, but some bacterial infections require treatment. Repeated bacterial infections, or those that do not respond to treatment, may result in surgery to remove the tonsils. Practicing good hand hygiene can help prevent the spread of viruses and bacteria that cause tonsillitis.



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ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- Pain in the throat > 24-48 hours
- Refusing food or drink
- Difficulty swallowing
- Drooling
- Fever
- Palpable lymph glands in neck
- Swollen tonsils
- Erythema or pustules in the throat

DIAGNOSTICS

- Clinical findings
- Throat swab for culture

NURSING PRIORITIES

- Manage and prevent spread of infection
- Promote comfort
- Promote safe swallowing

THERAPEUTIC MANAGEMENT

- Avoid irritating food/drink
- Monitor for signs of dehydration
- Possible tonsillectomy
- Antibiotic therapy for bacterial infections

MEDICATION THERAPY

- Antibiotics
- Corticosteroids
- Analgesics