

Tissue Welding Tonsillectomy: Incidence Of Complications

Randall G. Michel, M.D., F.A.C.S.*, Bernard I. Weinstock, M.D., and Kang Tsau, M.D.
Lompoc, CA

Lompoc Healthcare District Hospital
Santa Barbara County
Lompoc CA 93436

Department of Surgery (Otolaryngology)
Drs. Michel and Weinstock
Department of Anesthesiology
Dr. Tsau

Poster Presentation: AAO-HNS Annual Meeting
Toronto, Canada
September 17-20, 2006

ABSTRACT: *Objectives:* To evaluate the incidence of primary and secondary post-operative bleeding and other complications in patients undergoing pressure assisted tissue welding forceps tonsillectomy.

Methods: A retrospective analysis of 450(four hundred-fifty) consecutive patients who underwent tissue welding forceps tonsillectomy at a community hospital from November 2002 through December 2005.

Results: Of 450(four hundred fifty) tissue welding forceps patients, 12(twelve) had episodes of postoperative bleeding, 2(two) patients had an episode of primary bleeding (0.44 percent) and 10 (ten) patients had secondary bleeding (2.22 percent). The two episodes of primary bleeding and two patients with secondary bleeding required operative management consisting of direct suture ligation of the tonsillar bleeding points. No blood products were required. The remaining secondary bleeders were evaluated in either the clinic or emergency department requiring only observation. There were no emergency department visits for dehydration or airway obstructive symptoms.

Conclusions: Tissue welding forceps technology lends itself well to total tonsillectomy with an acceptable safety profile.

Corresponding author and reprint requests:
Randall G. Michel, M.D., F.A.C.S.
480 Firestone Way
Lompoc CA 93436
(805)733-3541
FAX (805)733-0502
Email: RGMichelMD@verizon.net