

# **Pediatric Tissue Welding Tonsillectomy:**

## **A Comparative Study**

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**Abstract:***Objectives:* To describe the technique of pressure assisted tissue welding forceps pediatric tonsillectomy. To compare surgical, recovery, and outpatient times, narcotic requirements and pain levels in children undergoing pressure assisted tissue welding forceps tonsillectomy versus harmonic scalpel or electrosurgical tonsillectomy.

*Methods:* A retrospective community hospital review of fifty consecutive children, ages two to twelve years, undergoing tissue welding forceps tonsillectomy (Group I ) versus fifty consecutive children having either harmonic scalpel or electrosurgical dissection tonsillectomy (Group II). *Results:* Using tissue welding forceps technique, surgical time was reduced by 21 percent. Time in the phase II recovery was reduced by 76.6 percent. Postoperative pain scores and meperidine usage were reduced by 48.9 percent and 50.2 percent, respectively. *Conclusions:* Results from this small sample size suggest that children undergoing tissue welding forceps total tonsillectomy have significantly decreased narcotic requirements, pain scores and time spent in the outpatient surgery department. This study supports the need to further investigate this operative technique for pediatric tonsillectomy.