

Quinsy

Aintree University Hospital 

NHS Foundation Trust

Aintree Head and Neck Unit
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Tel:0151-529-5239/5195

What is Quinsy?

Quinsy is an uncommon condition where an abscess (a collection of pus) develops next to a tonsil due to a bacterial infection.

It is usually just on one side of the throat. It may follow tonsillitis or develop without a preceding tonsillitis.

The tonsil on the affected side may be swollen or look normal, but it may be pushed towards the middle. The symptoms that you may experience are:

- Severe throat pain which may be on one side
- Fever
- Drooling of saliva
- Foul-smelling breath
- Swallowing may be painful
- Difficulty opening the mouth
- Change in voice
- Earache on the affected side
- Neck stiffness symptoms
- Headache and feeling generally unwell.

What is the treatment for Quinsy?

The treatment for Quinsy in the majority of cases is for the collection of pus to be drained. This procedure relieves swelling and pain significantly.

It is done with you awake and using local anaesthetic to numb the throat. A small

needle or incision in your mouth is used to drain the pus. The doctor will explain the procedure in full to you. It is also treated with antibiotics and regular pain relief.

Once the doctors feel you are ready to go home you will need to complete a course of oral antibiotics. Completing the full course is very important – even if you start to feel better.

Pain killers ease pain, headache, and fever. To keep symptoms to a minimum it is best to take the pain relief regularly as recommended on the packet of medication.

Important:

Tell the medical and nursing staff if you are allergic to any medications.

Do I need to have my tonsils removed?

If you have recurring Quinsy you may wonder about having your tonsils removed.

This will need to be discussed with your doctor.

What happens when I go home?

When you are discharged, the nurse looking after you will go through the medication you will need to take at home.

They will also explain what to do if there are any problems. Contact numbers for advice are below.

If your symptoms do not settle after a week, or get worse, seek medical attention through your GP or via your local accident and emergency department.

Contact Telephone Numbers

Ward 29 Tel: 0151 529 5195 / 0151 529 5196

Ward 28 Tel: 0151 529 5238 / 0151 529 5239

NHS Direct Tel: 0845 4647

Based on information sited on:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Quinsy/Pages/Introduction.aspx>.



If you require a special edition of this leaflet

This leaflet is available in large print, Braille, on audio tape or disk and in other languages on request. Please:

0151 529 8564
listening@aintree.nhs.uk

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