

The Challenge of Pain and Dehydration

Because lack of fluids can lead to dehydration, increased pain, fever and fatigue, adequate fluid intake is critical following a tonsillectomy. But many patients, particularly children, fail to drink enough during the recovery period because of intense post-operative pain and swelling of the surgical site.

This was a primary concern of Richard Bryarly, M.D., an otolaryngologist with The Austin Diagnostic Clinic of Austin, Texas. During his 36-year career, Dr. Bryarly has seen patients suffer the effects of dehydration and sought out new technologies to decrease pain and speed recovery.

"I've always been bothered by the fact that patients suffer pain from tonsillectomies," said Dr. Bryarly. "I've actually had some patients admitted to the hospital so that they could get IV fluids because they were unable to swallow. I had tried a myriad of devices to decrease pain and make recovery easier but never found one that lived up to its promises."

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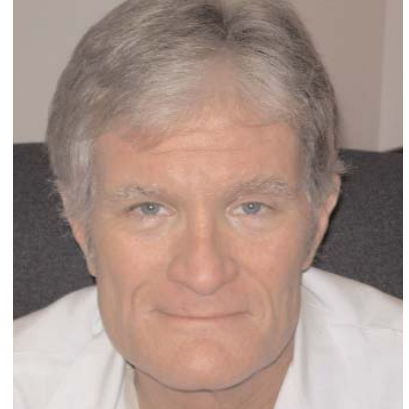
An Effective Seal Without the Damage

In June 2011, Dr. Bryarly learned of Microline Surgical's ENTceps™, a bayonet-style forceps designed specifically for procedures where fine precision, soft tissue sealing and dividing is required, such as tonsillectomy, parotidectomy, thyroidectomy and uvulopalatopharyngoplasty.

"I was using the Harmonic Scalpel at the time and was intrigued by ENTceps because there was the potential for less tissue destruction locally," said Dr. Bryarly. "I have to admit that I was very skeptical because I figured it was just like all of the other devices that I had tried, but low and behold it turned out to be a lot different. The tissue was less damaged when I got through with the procedures and the patients were in less pain. I was very enthused by the results."

Unlike conventional devices that use monopolar, bipolar or ultrasonic energy as modes of operation, ENTceps features Microline's patented thermal ligation technology, which employs only direct heat and pressure to quickly and delicately seal and divide soft tissue, minimizing collateral tissue damage.

While ENTceps' precision and safety was what initially attracted Dr. Bryarly to the device, he notes that its ability to perform an effective seal ultimately sets the device apart from conventional technologies.



Richard Bryarly, M.D.

"There are other instruments out there that cut through tissue and don't cause a lot of collateral damage, but then you've got to come along and cauterize the site or else it will bleed - that's what causes most of the damage and pain," said Dr. Bryarly. "With ENTceps, I was skeptical at first about whether or not it would effectively seal so I used a touch of cautery here and there but quickly evolved to the point where I used ENTceps alone for everything."

Speedier, Less Painful Recoveries - and at a Lower Price

According to Dr. Bryarly, Microline's ENTceps has enabled him to perform tonsillectomies with minimal collateral tissue damage, leading to fewer post-operative complications and faster recovery times for his patients.

"When patients come back to my office 10 days following an ENTceps tonsillectomy, their healing process is much further along compared to the other equipment that I had been using," said Dr. Bryarly. "Patients have experienced no post-operative bleeding, less pain and are getting back to their normal diets faster, particularly the younger children who can be more reluctant to eat or drink when they are in pain. Their parents tell me that they are eating soft foods as well as drinking and I've had no patients admitted for dehydration since using ENTceps."

Dr. Bryarly also notes that ENTceps is easy for his staff to set up and easy to use, requiring minimal training and a short learning curve. And there are financial benefits as well.

"It's nice that ENTceps is a compact unit and there is no need to wheel in a large piece of equipment like there is with other devices," said Dr. Bryarly. "That makes it easier to use all around. I'm also happy with the fact that the price is a lot less than some of the comparable equipment."

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