

The Swedish Quality Register for Tonsil Surgery (SQTS)

A description of the structure and data collection effective from 24 May 2023

Q1	Q2 (PROM)	Q3 (PROM)
First questionnaire [§] (day of surgery)	Second questionnaire [°] (30 days after surgery)	Third questionnaire [°] (6 months after surgery)
Filled in by the surgeon directly after surgery	The second and third questionnaires are automatically generated by the register database and forwarded to the patients through 1177.se which is a digital service run by The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions.	
	An introductory text to Q2 and Q3 explains that Q2 regards complications after tonsil surgery and Q3 regards how the patient's problems have changed after the tonsil surgery.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of surgery • Social security number (age, date of birth, gender) • Outpatient- or inpatient surgery • Indication* • Surgical method[#]: TE, TEA, TT, TTA, UPPP • Surgical technique for dissection: <i>cold steel, coblation, radiofrequency, bipolar diathermy, unipolar diathermy, diathermy scissors, ultracision, or "other technique"- namely...</i> • Surgical technique for haemostasis: <i>None, compression with swabs, infiltration with epinephrine, forceps on a bleeding vessel, ligation, bipolar diathermy, coblation, radiofrequency, unipolar diathermy ligation, or "other" technique- namely...</i> • Medicines that the patient is prescribed to take at home after the operation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>No medicines prescribed</i> ○ <i>Paracetamol</i> ○ <i>NSAID/ COX- inhibitors</i> ○ <i>Opioids</i> ○ <i>Klonidin</i> ○ <i>Antibiotics</i> ○ <i>Tranexamic acid</i> ○ <i>Other</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name, social security number, date • Have you had any bleedings from the throat after the surgery? • Have you visited medical care due to a bleeding from the throat after the surgery? (Yes/ No) • Have you been admitted to hospital due to a bleeding from the throat after surgery? (Yes/ No) • Was another surgery performed due to the bleeding from the throat? • Have you had to contact medical care because of pain after the surgery? (Yes/ No) • Are you satisfied with the pain treatment that you were recommended after the surgery? (Yes/ No) • If NO, why? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The medicines did not help enough</i> ○ <i>I ran out of medicines</i> ○ <i>I experienced side effects of the recommended medications</i> ○ <i>I didn't get enough information on how to treat the pain</i> ○ <i>Other reason, namely.....</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name, social security number, date <p><i>"Check the box that best describes your/ your child's situation":</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The problems are gone • My problems are almost gone • My problems remain • My problems have worsened <p>Have you /your child had other problems? <i>If yes, namely...?</i></p>
[§] 09-11-2015 Q1 replaced two questionnaires (a pre- and a perioperative questionnaire). No changes in data collection was made.		
[*] An explanation to the indications (in Swedish) is available to all surgeons at the SQTS webpage www.ton.registercentrum.se		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snoring or obstructive sleep apnoea due to enlarged tonsils • Dysphagia or oral motor dysfunction due to enlarged tonsils • Recurrent tonsillitis-> at least three episodes of tonsillitis the last year • Chronic tonsillitis- > at least three months with inflammation in the tonsils that affects daily activities • Peritonsillitis-> peritonsillar abscess • Systemic complication to tonsillitis-> systemic disease that worsens due to tonsillitis e.g. psoriasis, PFAPA 		
[#] TE- tonsillectomy, TEA- tonsillectomy with adenoidectomy, TT- tonsillotomy, TTA- tonsillotomy with adenoidectomy, UPPP- Uvulopalatopharyngoplasty		
[°] From 12-09-2013 Q3 also contains a question regarding whether the respondent was the patient or a relative.		

The Swedish Quality Register for Tonsil Surgery

The Swedish Quality Register for Tonsil Surgery (SQTS) was initiated in 1997 and revised in 2009. The SQTS aim to include all tonsil surgery performed on benign indications including uvulopalatopharyngoplasty. Participation in the register is voluntary. The register is administered by a reference group on behalf of the Swedish Association for Otorhinolaryngology, Head- and Neck Surgery and funded by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions.

HIGH COVERAGE

Tonsil surgery is a common surgical procedure. In 2019, 11226 tonsil operations were performed in Sweden (circa 10 million inhabitants 2019). The coverage of the SQTS 2009-2019 have improved and since 2011 more than 75% of all known tonsil surgeries in Sweden have been registered each year (table 1).

The denominator in the calculation of coverage is the total number of registered tonsil surgeries in the National Patient Register (NPR) and the numerator is the total number of tonsil surgery registered in the SQTS. All Swedish health care providers are required by law to report all tonsil surgeries to the NPR.

Here, the total number of tonsil surgeries and coverage is reported per year.

2009	12,223	– 48,4 %
2010	12,231	– 63,4 %
2011	11,851	– 78,6 %
2012	13,679	– 75,2 %
2013	13,651	– 82,2 %
2014	13,578	– 81,7 %
2015	13,814	– 83,2 %
2016	13,391	– 81,9 %
2017	13,228	– 80,2 %
2018	13,056	– 78,1 %
2019	11,226	– 82,0 %
2020	7,712	– 79,3 %
2021	6,208	– 75,8%

The register contains information of several factors in the clinical process that may influence the outcome in a positive or negative direction. Interactive data from the register is available (in Swedish) online on our statistics page. Here continuously updated descriptions of national and local clinical practice, rates of complications and rates on efficacy is presented.

HOW TO USE DATA

Data from the SQTS can identify areas where improvement is warranted and stimulate local quality improvement projects. Data from the register can also be used for research, and the large number of patients registered annually enables detection of relations that are difficult to study in RCT's. Several scientific studies have been conducted with data from the register. Full information on publications is available on our publication page.