



Coblation® Intracapsular Tonsillectomy Technique Guide

Kay Chang, M.D., Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology and Pediatrics.
Stanford University School of Medicine, Lucille Packard Children's Hospital, Palo Alto, CA.

The Coblation Intracapsular Tonsillectomy procedure provides a precise and effective method for the removal of up to 95-98% of the tonsil without penetrating the tonsillar capsule.



Coblator® II Surgery System

Coblation Intracapsular Tonsillectomy

1. When the EVac® T&A Wand is connected to the Controller, the default settings of 7 and 3 should appear on the Coblation and Coagulation LEDs respectively. Set the Coblation power to a setting of 9 and keep the setting on 3 for Coagulation.
2. Connect the suction tubing from the Wand to the OR suction, separate from the Yankheur suction. Ensure that the saline flow is wide open.
3. First, examine the tonsils and look at the portion of the tonsil that is protruding outside of the pillars in order to estimate how much of the tonsil is hidden behind the pillars. The goal of the procedure is to remove 95-98% of the tonsil bulk, leaving the thinnest portion of tonsil over the capsule to protect the capsule from being penetrated. You want to end up with a nice smooth concavity in the tonsillar fossa (the analogous ear surgery would be creating a saucerized mastoidectomy cavity).
4. Utilizing a light, scooping motion, begin ablating from the surface down inwards toward the capsule, but sparing the tonsillar capsule. Keep the tip of the Wand constantly in motion, while leaving a slight interface between the tissue and the tip, so that the plasma field develops inside the saline interface. Hovering over the tissue will keep the Wand from clogging and expedite the ablation process.
5. To minimize the Wand from clogging, continuously wipe off the electrodes with a wet 4x4 throughout the procedure. Also, intermittently dip the tip of the Wand into a saline-filled beaker and press the Coblation Foot Pedal to flush out the Wand and prevent it from becoming clogged. If clogging does occur, then fill a 10cc syringe with saline and back-flush the suction port of the EVac T&A Wand.





6. Typically there is no bleeding of the tonsillar tissue during ablation, however, if there is any oozing, then depress the Coagulation Foot Pedal to obtain hemostasis. Apply the electrodes directly onto the bleeder with increased pressure to achieve optimal hemostasis.
7. If increased coagulation is needed, you can increase the intensity of the coag by raising the Coagulation setting to 5. This must be done manually using the arrows on the front of the Controller.
8. As you approach the tonsil capsule, turn the Coblation power down to a setting of 6 to reduce the aggressiveness of the ablation. Continue ablating the tonsil tissue until approximately 95-98% of the tonsils are removed. The goal of the procedure is to remove as much of the tonsil as possible without penetrating the tonsil capsule.



9. When trying to determine the “stopping” point for the ablation, pull back on the pillars, which will enable you to see where the tonsil is in relation to the capsule interface. Utilize a Hurd elevator to retract the pillar in order to identify where the tonsil ends.
10. Upon completion of the procedure, retract the pillars and look for concavity on both sides that comes down to, but not quite through, the constrictor muscles. Typically, there is a very thin layer of tonsil tissue left (it is preserving the capsule), since you are trying not to penetrate through the capsule.



11. Close the mouth gag for 30 seconds – 1 minute and then re-open to check for any bleeding. If necessary, coagulate the tonsil area to achieve hemostasis.

*It should be noted that any of the EVac Wands may be used to perform an Intracapsular Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy procedure.



ArthroCare ENT
680 Vaqueros Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94085-3523
order entry phone 800-797-6520
phone 408-736-0224
order entry fax 888-994-2782
www.arthrocareENT.com

ArthroCare Europe AB
Baggensgatan 25
111 31 Stockholm
Sweden
phone +46 8 546 172 00
fax +46 8 546 172 39
info@arthrocare.se

CAUTION: Federal (USA) law restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a physician.

© 2006 ArthroCare Corporation. ArthroCare, Coblation, Coblator, and EVac are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of ArthroCare Corporation.

P/N 16700 Rev A