

Title: Peritonsillar Abscess

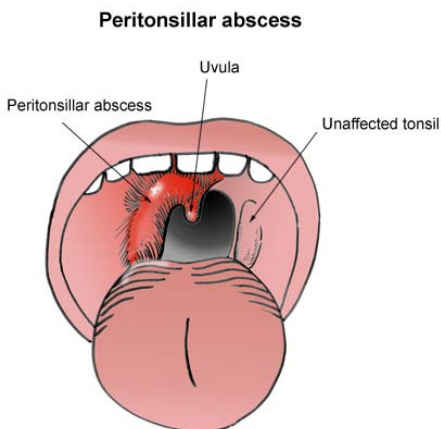
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Date: 2/2/2010

Key words: Peritonsillar Abscess, Sore Throat, Odynophagia

Abstract: Many patients suffer from peritonsillar abscess. This pamphlet is to serve as an information tool to describe what symptoms to look for and what to expect for treatment.

This document was created by a medical student enrolled in the Primary Care Clerkship at the University of Minnesota Medical School as part of the course project. The aim of the project is to present information on a medical topic in the format of a patient education handout. It does not necessarily reflect the views of the University of Minnesota Medical School physicians and faculty. These materials are provided for informational purposes only and are in no way intended to take the place of the advice and recommendations of your personal health care provider. The information provided may no longer be up to date since it has not been reviewed since the date of creation. The information provided should not be used to diagnose a health problem or disease, or as a means of determining treatment. In the event of a medical emergency, immediately contact a doctor or call 911.



What is a Peritonsillar Abscess?

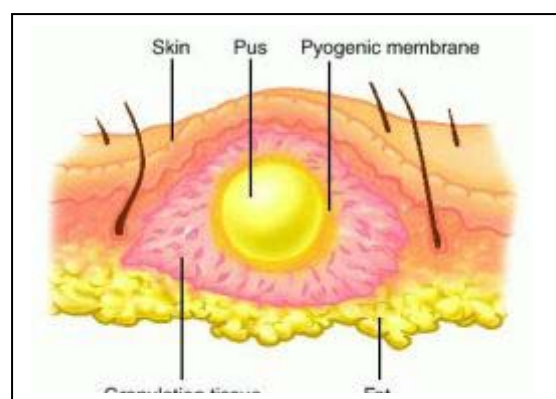
- An acute infection
- Starts between the tonsil and the muscular wall behind it
- Often is a complication of Strep Throat

Who gets Peritonsillar Abscesses?

- Most commonly affects people in their 20's 30's

What causes Peritonsillar Abscesses?

- The main cause is a type of bacteria called Streptococcus
- Sometimes people get peritonsillar abscesses as a secondary infection



What are the clinical symptoms of Peritonsillar Abscesses?

- Severe throat pain
- Trouble swallowing or pain with swallowing
- Difficulty opening the mouth wide
- Neck pain
- Ear pain
- Drooling
- Muffled ('hot potato') voice
- Fever

How do we treat Peritonsillar Abscess?

- Incision and Drainage
- Antibiotic Treatment
- Fluids
- Symptomatic treatment
- Steroid treatment

What are some warning signs that suggest a severe infection?

- The patient is having trouble breathing
- The patient is drooling or unable to swallow
- The patient is dehydrated
- The patient has a severely high fever