

# **Tonsillektomia z zastosowaniem skalpela harmonicznego - doświadczenie własne i przegląd literatury**

Harmonic scalpel tonsillectomy - personal experience and review of literature

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Introduction. The harmonic scalpel has been used in tonsil surgery for several years. The comparison of harmonic scalpel tonsillectomy with other tonsillectomy techniques has been the subject of many studies. The research results proved to be contradictory, particularly concerning postoperative complications and complaints. Most authors observed reduced intraoperative bleeding during harmonic scalpel tonsillectomy. Objective. Analysis of harmonic scalpel tonsillectomy results and review of literature. Material and methods. The harmonic scalpel was used for 71 tonsillectomies in the Department of Otolaryngology UJ CM between 2002-2007. The surgical procedure and postoperative results were analyzed retrospectively and compared with other tonsillectomy techniques. Results. The harmonic scalpel provided sufficient intraoperative hemostasis in 67% of cases. 33% of patients required electrocautery, vessel ligation in the operation field or suturing of the marginal tissue to control bleeding. Postoperative hemorrhage requiring surgical intervention occurred in 3 patients. No other severe postoperative complications were observed in either group. Conclusions. Harmonic scalpel tonsillectomy is an effective and safe alternative technique in tonsil surgery. In some cases however other hemostasis techniques may be necessary to control intense bleeding.