

Tonsillitis

The tonsils are fleshy pieces of lymphatic tissue that rest in the back of the throat above and below the tongue. As part of the immune system, the tonsils help fight infections. However, if bacteria or viruses contaminate the tonsils, the result is an infectious inflammation and swelling of the tonsils - or tonsillitis.

Tonsillitis has both viral and bacterial causes, though many cases are caused by viruses. When tonsillitis is caused by the Group A streptococcal bacteria, the condition is more commonly termed "strep throat".

Most infections begin when a person breathes in bacteria- or virus-infected droplets that another person has breathed, coughed, or sneezed out.

The most common symptoms of Tonsillitis are:

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