

Home Intravenous Hydration

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Tonsillectomy recovery can be very difficult, both due to throat pain and poor oral intake of food and fluids. This becomes a "vicious cycle" – the more the throat hurts, the less the patient drinks, and the more dehydrated they become. Dehydration contributes significantly to postoperative discomfort, making good oral intake even less likely. Furthermore, dehydration can contribute to complications such as postoperative bleeding and the need for hospital admission.

Intravenous (IV) therapy can break this pain cycle by quickly and easily reestablishing adequate hydration, relieving discomfort and hastening recovery, with none of the risks of more aggressive medication regimens. I had occasionally recommended this for some patients in the past, but it involved a trip to the emergency room, followed by a long wait in a potentially unpleasant environment. This made the experience even worse for young and anxious patients.

Recently, I have begun working with a company that provides this therapy in the comfort of a patient's own home. While not covered by insurance, the price for this is reasonable and the overall experience is far better than an ER visit. Specially trained and experienced health care professionals can place IVs painlessly in children, as young as age seven. Parents have told me that this made a huge difference in their child's overall experience, breaking the cycle of pain and poor oral intake, and helping speed the process of recovery.

This company - IV Me Now - can provide this service anywhere in New York City. If you would like to schedule a visit (usually best during the peak time for discomfort, between day 5 and 10 after surgery), you can do this by calling (908) 941-2157, or by visiting their website at ivmenownyc.com. Ideally, this should be requested 12-24 hours in advance of the appointment, and you can use the referral code POSTOPIV for a discounted price (\$185 plus tax and gratuity). For children, the solution would be just plain saline with no added medications or nutrients.

I have no financial or other relationship with this company other than my good past experience. As always, please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns.