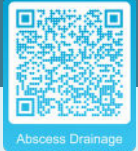


HEAD & NECK ABSCESS DRAINAGE



A neck abscess or deep neck infection is a collection of pus that originates from an infection in spaces between the structures of the neck such as the throat, tongue, and windpipe. Children are especially vulnerable to these kinds of infections, which often follow a bacterial or viral infection of the neck or head. Colds, flu, tonsillitis, sinus infections and ear infections can all precipitate an abscess.

DIAGNOSIS

To diagnose a neck abscess the physician may:

▶ **Physical exam:**

▶ A physical examination is usually sufficient to diagnose a neck abscess. If an abscess is found, we have an on-site surgery center to drain it for you in an expeditious and personalized manner for rapid diagnosis and resolution of the problem. If an overnight stay is recommended, we will perform these at the hospital.

▶ **Blood test:**

▶ A blood test will help measure the body's response to any infection that may be present.

▶ **Biopsy:**

▶ A procedure in which tissue samples are removed from the body for further examination.

SYMPTOMS

- ▶ Fever
- ▶ Ear pain
- ▶ Body aches and chills
- ▶ Sinus infection
- ▶ Lump in the neck or throat
- ▶ Inflamed, red, swollen throat or floor of the mouth
- ▶ Difficulty swallowing and/or painful swallowing

TYPES OF ABSCESS

▶ **Retropharyngeal abscess:**

▶ It is a collection of pus at the back of the throat and often shows up after an upper respiratory infection. This type of abscess is often most common in young children.

▶ **Peritonsillar abscess:**

▶ The abscess occurs when a collection of pus forms and infection spreads beyond the tonsils into the neck and chest. This may be a complication of tonsillitis. Additional factors that may increase your risk for peritonsillar abscess may be smoking or gum disease.

▶ **Submandibular abscess (Ludwig's angina):**

▶ Submandibular abscess is a bacterial infection that occurs beneath the tissues of the mouth (the floor of the mouth, under the tongue). It can cause breathing and swallowing problems/pain.