

A B C D E F G H Children's Health

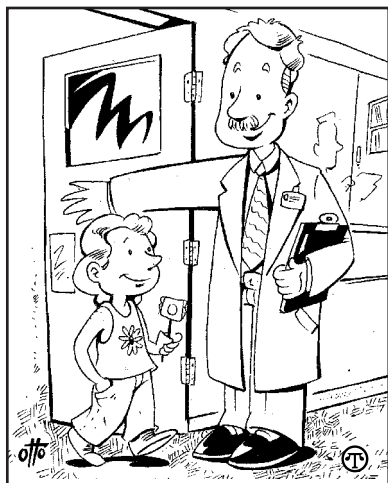
Child's Snoring A Wake Up Call For Parents

(NAPSA)—The American Academy of Pediatrics estimates that 10 percent of children are habitual snorers. A little-known fact to parents, snoring can be an indication of a serious sleep disorder called obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), which is often caused by tonsils that are too large for a child's airway. A tonsillectomy procedure can easily remedy the sleep problem, and, thanks to new technology, kids can get back to their normal diets and routines quickly.

Typically associated with obese adults, OSA has been gaining recognition as a significant sleep problem in children. By causing children to stop breathing and gasp for air repeatedly during sleep, OSA can cause long-term health problems and can have a negative and harmful effect on a child's cognition, school performance, mood and behavior.

"Tonsillectomy is the surgical procedure of choice for children who suffer from obstructive sleep apnea caused by enlarged tonsils," said Dr. Edward Reardon, an otolaryngologist who is a clinical instructor of otology and laryngology at Harvard Medical School. "And for parents worried about pain and a long recovery period, a tonsillectomy using new Coblation technology can cut a child's recovery time in half."

Tonsillectomy remained virtually unchanged for 40 years until FDA clearance of Coblation's use in tonsillectomies in 2001, a less-



A tonsillectomy may be the solution for many children's nighttime breathing problems.

invasive alternative to conventional electrocautery tonsillectomy.

Coblation applies bipolar radiofrequency (bRF) energy to a conductive solution, such as saline, to create a relatively cool (40° to 70° Centigrade) plasma field, which virtually dissolves tonsil tissue and preserves healthy surrounding tissue. Electrocautery uses high temperatures (300° to 400° Centigrade) to remove tissue, burning and charring surrounding tissue, resulting in increased post-op pain and prolonged recovery.

To learn more about this new tonsillectomy procedure, or to find a local otolaryngologist (ear, nose and throat surgeon) who uses Coblation, visit www.coblation.com.