

Tonsil, Non-Tumor

(7.5 Tonsil_Non_Tumor); Updated August 11th, 2019 by Jeremy Deisch, MD

SAMPLE DICTATION

Single tonsil → (Labeled: ____, ____, ____; ____) Received ____ is a __ gram, _ x _ x _ cm tonsil. The cut surface shows unremarkable crypts.

OR

Two tonsils in same container → (Labeled: ____, ____, ____; ____) Received ____ are two tan tonsils. One tonsil is tagged with a (suture, safety pin). The larger tonsil weighs _ grams, measuring _ x _ x _ cm. The smaller tonsil weighs _ grams, measuring _ x _ x _ cm. The cut surface shows unremarkable crypts.

Specimen Handling: (RS / TE, ____ caps)

SUGGESTED SAMPLING

1-2: One section per tonsil (one section in each cap) is adequate unless there is significant gross pathology

STAGING CRITERIA (AJCC 8TH EDITION)

- N/A

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- The primary reason for giving both weights and measurements for each individual tonsil is to assess for tonsillar asymmetry, a weak risk factor for tonsillar malignancy. If there is significant tonsillar asymmetry (usually > 1 cm difference in size) may prompt submitting additional tissue to increase the sensitivity for detecting significant lesions.
- *Actinomycotic* aggregates (“sulphur granules”) are often seen in tonsillar crypts, presenting as discrete yellow “stones”. These are interesting findings, but do not have any significant clinicopathologic implications.