

## **Epidemiology and trend of pediatric adenoidectomy: a population-based study in Taiwan from 1997 to 2012**

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**Objective:** To assess population-level epidemiological data and trends for pediatric adenoidectomy in Taiwan.

**Methods:** This study used data from the Taiwan National Health Insurance Research Database for the 1997–2012 period. In this 16-year cohort study, all inpatients younger than 18 years who received adenoidectomies were identified using codes from the International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision. Incidence rates for pediatric adenoidectomy were calculated. Characteristics of age, gender, hospital region, hospital level, indications, concurrent procedures, perioperative medications, and postoperative complications of adenoidectomies during the study period were analyzed.

**Results:** From 1997 to 2012, 20,599 children underwent adenoidectomy (mean age,  $7.4 \pm 3.3$  years; 67% boys). The overall incidence rate was 24.5 per 100,000 children. The highest incidence was observed for the ages of 3–5 years. Boys exhibited higher incidence rates than did girls. Longitudinal data for pediatric adenoidectomy revealed an increase in the incidence rates from 1997 (14.8/100,000 children) to 2012 (26.9/100,000 children). During the study period, the proportion of adenoidectomies performed at medical centers decreased from 60.5% to 46.9%, whereas those performed at regional hospitals increased from 36.4% to 47.2%. The proportion of pediatric adenoidectomies performed for sleep problems increased significantly from 10.1% to 35.6%, whereas those for infections decreased from 32.3% to 8.0%. The proportion of concurrent procedure with uvulopalatopharyngoplasty increased from 6.8% to 14.5% ( $P$  trend < 0.001).

**Conclusion:** This study revealed an increasing trend of pediatric adenoidectomy incidence rates during 1997–2012 in Taiwan. Moreover, surgical indications have shifted from infections to sleep problems.

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