normal activities by 10th day. On follow up after one month, 2 patients (5%) complained of pain in one of the tonsillar fossa and a fibrous band was seen in the posterior pillar. In one patient laser excision of the fibrous band was done, but the other patient did not come for further treatment.

DISCUSSIONS

Tonsillectomies are one of the most commonly performed surgical procedures in Otorhinolaryngology. The purpose of this operation is to remove the palatine tonsil in such a way that blood loss is minimal and unnecessary trauma to the adjacent tissue is avoided. The two most common post-operative complications following tonsillectomy are haemorrhage and pain (Bluestone, 1977; Husband and Davis, 1996) The degree of pain is related to the degree of soft tissue damage. If this pain is associated with oral stasis, this predisposes to infection with further pain and risk of secondary haemorrhage (Choy and Su, 1992). The Harmonic Scalpel is associated with less adjacent tissue damage and so post-operative pain is less.

Our study demonstrates that tonsillectomy using a Harmonic Scalpel is a good method where dissection time is less, and the method is effective in controlling intra-operative bleeding. It also does not increase the risk of reactionary or secondary haemorrhage and there is less post-operative pain. But, this method is associated with extensive Escher formation and oedema of the uvula.

As there is dearth of literature on this subject, no

comparative study could be shown. However, information gathered from the internet showed that the Harmonic Scalpel is now being used by ENT doctors Glyn Marsh, M.D., Glen Yoshida, M.D. and David Gordon, M.D., at Altru Health System for tonsil surgery. We are doing a study comparing tonsillectomy using Harmonic Scalpel with dissection method and laser surgery and the results will be published later on.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors are thankful to Dr. B.K. Gogoi, Medical Director, of Down Town Hospital Ltd. for allowing us to publish this hospital record.

REFERENCES

1. McAuliffe.C.J.(1987) The history of tonsil and adenoid surgery. *Otolaryngologic Clinics of North America* 20: 415-419.
2. Bluestone.C.D.(1977) Status of tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy, *Laryngoscope* 87: 1235-1243.
3. Husband.A.D., Davis. A. (1996) Pain after tonsillectomy, *Clinical Otolaryngology*, 21: 99-101.
4. Choy.A.T.K., Su.A.P.(1992) Bipolar diathermy or ligation for haemostasis in tonsillectomy? A prospective study on post-operative pain, *Journal of laryngology and Otology* 106: 21-22.

Address for Correspondence :

Dr. N. N. Dutta,
Chairman cum Managing Director,
Down Town Hospital Ltd.
Dispur, Guwahati-781006, Assam.

CORRIGENDUM

The Main Article Titled Otitis Media with Effusion; an Audit on the indications and outcome, Published in page-285 of Vol. 53 No. 4 (Dec. 2001) is authored by Dr. V. V. Routh and not Dr. Joyti P. Mukherjee as erroneously printed. The error is regretted.

.....Editor