

Name _____

The Unsung Heroes of Immunity: Tonsils and Adenoids

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Answers may vary, but in a scenario with continuously infected tonsils and adenoids, the person may experience recurrent health issues, such as frequent sore throats and respiratory infections. Their overall well-being could be negatively impacted due to chronic infections, and treatment options might include antibiotics, surgical removal, or other medical interventions.
2. In a situation where tonsils and adenoids are removed, the body may rely more on other immune system components, such as lymph nodes and antibodies, to provide protection against invaders. Over time, the body can adapt to compensate for the loss of these structures, but individuals may have a slightly higher risk of infections at the entrance of the respiratory and digestive systems.
3. Maintaining good oral hygiene and avoiding exposure to sick individuals can help prevent infections of the tonsils and adenoids. Good oral hygiene reduces the risk of bacterial overgrowth in the mouth, and avoiding sick individuals can minimize the exposure to contagious pathogens.
4. An interesting fact is that the removal of tonsils and adenoids was a common medical practice in the past, often done as a preventive measure. However, modern medicine has a better understanding of their roles in the immune system, and their removal is now typically reserved for cases of chronic infections or other medical conditions.

