This study demonstrates the feasibility of using a bio-absorbable tonsil patch®. Ten patients (twenty sides) underwent successful placement of 4-layer Biodesign® (SurgiSIS) in this feasibility pilot trial. There were no cases of adverse reaction or aspiration of the Biodesign® (SurgiSIS) material. Closure of the tonsillar pillars with or without the bolster resulted in uniform tissue closure; however, there was no evidence of non-adequacy of the graft.

The last two patients of the series were provided post-operative pain reg and a standard visual analog scale (VAS) to record their pain level. The patient in figure 5 (post-op day 2) was reporting pain on the VAS at 4.0. She presented to the clinic for evaluation and demonstrated minimal pain with swallowing water.

The second patient reported a pain level of 3-4 on the VAS on post-op day 4. Patient #6 was able to compare his procedure to his tonsillectomy done approximately five years before and both commented on the difference in the pain level to be experienced (improved). There were no cases of post-operative bleeding.

CONCLUSIONS

The study demonstrates the feasibility of using Biodesign® (SurgiSIS) as a tonsil patch®. Pain reduction appears similar to previous attempts to cover the tonsillar site with a tissue graft. For Biodesign® (SurgiSIS) or any other grafting material to be desirable, a specific closure device must be developed to reduce operative time. The grafts must be engineered for tonsillar tissue to reduce cost. It and must be durable throughout the healing process. Further critical evaluation to confirm the effectiveness of the Biodesign® (SurgiSIS) technology in pain reduction as a tonsil pack® will be beneficial. Given its unique properties, other uses within Otolaryngology should be explored as well.