

ORAL SEDATION

The doctor has recommended sedation for your child's safety and comfort during dental treatment. Most children become relaxed and/or drowsy and may drift into a light sleep from which they can be aroused easily. We like the children sedated at a level where we can still communicate with them.

Unlike general anesthesia, sedation is not intended to make a patient unconscious or unresponsive. Rarely, some children may not experience relaxation but an opposite reaction such as agitation or crying. These are common responses. In any case, our team will observe your child's response to the medication and provide assistance as needed.

You, as parent/legal guardian, play a key role in your child's dental care. Children often perceive a parent's anxiety which makes them more fearful. They are more comfortable when their parents understand what to expect and prepare them for the experience. Please ask if you have any questions about the process. As you become more confident, so will your child.

BOARD CERTIFIED PEDIATRIC DENTISTS

From left to right
Abraham Itty, D.M.D., M.S.
Julie Anfinson, D.D.S., M.S.D.
Danielle Goldstein, D.D.S.
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CONTACT INFORMATION

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If any questions arise, please contact the office

Affiliated Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics



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PREPARING FOR YOUR CHILD'S SEDATION VISIT

PRIOR TO THE SEDATION APPOINTMENT

Do not allow your child to eat or drink anything (including water) after midnight the day before, or at least six hours prior to treatment. For your child's safety, it's imperative that the stomach is empty at the time of oral sedation.

Healthy Child/Medications

- Tell us about any prescribed and over-the-counter medication your child is taking.
- Check with us to see if routine medications should be taken the day of the sedation.
- Please notify our office of any changes in your child's health and/or medical condition.
- Your child should not have a fever or be congested. Should your child become ill just prior to a sedation appointment, contact our office to see if it is necessary to post-pone the visit.

Plan ahead

- Dress your child in loose fitting, comfortable clothing for the sedation appointment.
- Please do not bring other children to this appointment so you can focus your attention on your child receiving the sedation..
- Do NOT plan or permit any activities for this day.

APPOINTMENT DAY

Day of Appointment

- Your child will be given the medication when he/she arrives at the office; consequently, your PROMPT arrival is very important. It may take approximately 30-45 minutes for the medication to work.

During the Appointment

- After your child takes the sedation medication, we ask you to watch your child closely, as he/she may become sleepy, dizzy, or unsteady. Please sit with your child so that he/she does not stumble or fall.
- Keeping your child in a calm environment, will give the medication the best chance to take effect; please limit screen usage during this time.

Treatment

- Your child will be brought to the treatment room by the assistant. We may place him/her in a protective stabilization blanket. This prevents hands from unexpectedly coming up and knocking any instruments towards the eyes.
- Treatment can take up to 2 hours. It is common for a child to wake occasionally and cry. If so, we stop as soon as we can and allow them to relax.

AFTER THE SEDATION APPOINTMENT

Local Anesthetic

- In addition to the sedative medications, we often use local anesthetic to numb the mouth for dental treatment. The numbness usually lasts 2-4 hours.
- Watch to see that your child does not bite, scratch or injure the cheek, lips or tongue during this time.

Getting home

- Patient must be accompanied by a responsible adult to drive home. Since he/she still be under the influence of the sedation medication, it could be helpful to have a second adult in the vehicle to assist the child should he/she fall asleep.

Drinking after treatment

- Water or sweet drinks may be given (fruit juice or Gatorade). Small drinks are preferable to large amounts. Do not use a straw if extractions were performed.

Eating after treatment

- Soft food, not too hot, can be eaten when desired. You will be given information in relation to diet if your child had extractions.

Allow your child to rest

- Place your child on his/her side while napping. Don't be surprised if he/she sleeps 1-5 hours. The reactions to sedation differ with each child.
- Don't plan any activities for this day.