

Instructions for your child's general anesthesia appointment

General anesthesia is utilized to allow Dr. Morrow, Dr. Lai or Dr. Edwards to complete your child's dental treatment in the easiest possible manner. This decision is based on the initial assessment in our dental office, relying upon the behavior that your child exhibited, the amount of dental treatment required and/or your child's ability or inability to allow us to complete the treatment using conscious sedation. We feel that general anesthesia would be the best method to complete your child's dental treatment which is preferable to a negative dental experience with conscious sedation or no treatment at all, allowing the decay to progress to a more severe state.

We have a dental anesthesiologist administer the general anesthesia during dental treatment. He usually, but not always, puts the child asleep using anesthetic gases. One parent is usually allowed to hold the child while he/she is going to sleep. Once the child is asleep, parents are required to sit in the waiting room until notified by an office staff member. When extractions are necessary, a local anesthetic may also be used to keep your child comfortable post-operatively.

For best results:

1. Put your child to bed early the night before the scheduled general anesthesia appointment.
2. The anesthesiologist will call the night before the appointment to discuss any pertinent medical information. Be prepared to answer detailed medical questions at this time.
3. Call us at (918) 742-9810 if the child has an illness more severe than a runny nose.
4. **Bring your child to the appointment on an empty stomach.** Please remember, this means nothing to eat or drink after midnight the night before the appointment, including water. Breaking this requirement will mean cancellation of your child's appointment.
5. Make plans to be in the office for two to three hours during the general anesthesia appointment. A parent or guardian **MUST** remain in the office so that any questions can be answered immediately.
6. When your child is waking up from anesthesia, he/she may require more attention than usual. Because of this, if you are the only adult attending the appointment, it is advisable that you find alternate care for any other children in the family, especially younger siblings.
7. After the appointment, expect your child to be sleepy, irritable, or vomiting for the next few hours. Let him/her sleep on the floor or a low couch. Schedule out of work all day or expect to remain close to your child while he/she is recovering from anesthesia.

If any questions arise, please call (918) 742-9810