



GENERAL ANESTHESIA FOR DENTAL SURGERY:

General anesthesia is a way of giving medicine so the person is “asleep” and doesn’t feel anything, not even pain. Usually, a gas is inhaled through a mask, but sometimes it is given by an IV (intravenous) or with syringe. Anesthesiologist use this way of giving medicine when surgeons operate so patients don’t feel any pain or remember what happened during the surgery. Sometimes we suggest that children have general anesthesia to have dental work done (see “When is general Anesthesia needed”).

WHEN IS GENERAL ANESTHESIA NEEDED?

We follow national guidelines for choosing the children who would best be treated under general anesthesia. The reasons may include any of the following:

- Child is too young to understand or cooperate for dental care (usually age 4 or less).
- Disability or physical, emotional, or mental delay.
- Other major medical problems.
- A large number of cavities in the teeth or the cavities are in a pattern that makes it hard for the child to handle routine dental care.
- A child who is very fearful of medical or dental treatment and sedation medicine is not enough to help him or her get over the fears.
- A child whose home is far away and needs lots of dental care.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- These are some risks of general anesthesia, especially when the child is not otherwise healthy. Common complications include: sore throat, agitation (acting restless) when waking up, and bruising at the IV site. Rare complications include temporary or permanent brain damage, and even death. However, general anesthesia is extremely safe when on a healthy child. The anesthesiologist will discuss the risks and answer your questions before surgery.

FINANCES:

We will talk with you about ways to pay for the general anesthesia if it is needed. The cost varies, and is **separate from the cost of the dentistry.**

Appointment

Child’s Name: _____

Date: _____

Take your child to:

Dental Surgical Center of Medina, Inc.

3613 Reserve Commons Dr.

Medina, OH 44256

PLEASE BE ON TIME.

These dental surgery appointments are in very high demand. If you cannot keep the appointment, we require a 48 hour notice. Failure to give this notice may mean your child will not be scheduled again for general anesthesia in the future.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



THE WEEK BEFORE DENTAL SURGERY:

The nurse who works with the anesthesia doctor will call you 1 to 3 days before surgery to tell you the exact time to be here. At that time it is **very important to tell the nurse if your child is taking any medicines or has been sick recently.**

Please keep the whole day open on the appointment date. Arrange for someone to care for other children in the family. Ask another responsible person to come with you so that you can care for your child on drive home after dental surgery.

THE DAY OF THE DENTAL SURGERY:

It is VERY IMPORTANT that your child does not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before the appointment. He or she should not have a large meal after 9:00pm either. Your child should not take any medicine unless given approval by the doctor.

- Your child should not wear contact lenses, cosmetics, or fingernail polish. He or she should wear loose-fitting clothing with short sleeves. Also, please bring a complete change of clothing for your child, just in case of accidents.
- When you arrive at the Dental Surgical Center to complete paperwork, please remember that no food or drink is allowed in the reception area out of respect for our fasting patients.
- When it is time, you and your child will be taken to a consultation room to talk with the Anesthesiologist and your Dentist.
- When your child is taken into the Operating Room, one parent or guardian may go with the child and stay until the child is asleep. Parents or guardians may then wait in the reception area.
- **A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN MUST BE PRESENT FOR THE START OF ANESTHESIA AND STAY IN THE RECEPTION AREA THE WHOLE TIME.**
- You will need to bring one other responsible adult the day of surgery to keep an eye on the child while the other adult drives home. Please make sure someone is available to take care of your child at home the rest of the day after the dental treatment.
- Your child will sit on a bed and the anesthesia medicine will usually be given through a face mask. It usually takes 10 to 45 seconds for the child to fall asleep. Various vital sign monitors will be put on. After your child is asleep, an IV will be started so we can give other medicines that help anesthesia work. A breathing tube will be put in, usually through the nose and the doctor will carefully control your child's breathing. The dentistry is then done. When it's over you will be there when your child wakes up. The doctors or nurses will let you know when your child is ready to be taken home.

These instructions are designed for your child's comfort and protection. A failure to follow any of these instructions may require us to cancel your appointment that day. Should any circumstance develop that would require the postponement of your dental surgery, please notify us at (330) 952-1737.