

DISCUSSION & INFORMED CONSENT for ANESTHESIA/SEDATION
Rev 07/2019

FACTS FOR CONSIDERATION

During dental treatment, patients may have difficulty understanding the procedure and/or its management because of either psychological issues, a cognitive, physical or medical disability, or fear and anxiety. Considering patient safety and comfort, they may benefit from behavior management through communication techniques or immobilization. In addition, the dentist may also identify the need for sedation medication and anesthesia for the patient's comfort and behavior management. Anesthesia is a method of providing medication to reduce patient anxiety, awareness of the surgery or treatment and reduction or elimination of pain associated with surgery or treatment.

Patients may require local anesthesia, light to moderate conscious sedation, deep sedation or general anesthesia for their comfort during the performance of dental restorations or surgical procedures. The depth of anesthesia, except for local anesthesia, is a matter of degrees beginning at a low level called "light" and adjusted to lighter or deeper levels depending on the patient's tolerance for the procedure and discomfort. Your dentist will recommend and explain to you which type of anesthesia might be appropriate for your individual medical/dental needs.

In the case of a minor (anyone under the age of 18), the administration and monitoring of general anesthesia may vary depending on the type of procedure, the type of practitioner, the age and health of the patient and the setting in which anesthesia is provided. Risks may vary with each specific situation. You are encouraged to explore all the options available for your child's anesthesia for his or her dental treatment and consult with your dentist or pediatrician as needed.

OPTION 1: LOCAL ANESTHESIA WITH OR WITHOUT COMPOUNDED TOPICAL ANESTHETICS

Compounded topical anesthetics used in our office may contain benzocaine, high concentration of lidocaine, tetracaine, phenylephrine and/or phenylephrine. It is contraindicated in patients with para-aminobenzoic acid (PABA) allergy or atypical pseudocholinesterase activity.

Anesthetizing agents (medications) are injected into a small area with the intent of numbing the area to receive dental treatment. They also can be injected near a nerve to act as a nerve block causing numbness to a larger area of the mouth beyond just the site of injection.

Risks include but are not limited to: It is normal for the numbness to take time to wear off after treatment, usually two or three hours. This can vary depending on the type of medication used. However, in some cases, it can take longer, and in some rare cases, the numbness can be permanent if the nerve is injured. Infection,

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swelling, allergic reactions, discoloration, headache, tenderness at the needle site, dizziness, nausea, vomiting and cheek, tongue, or lip biting can occur.

The majority of patients will not experience any adverse effects from dental topical anesthetic gel and/or local anesthesia. The most common adverse reaction patients experience is a headache, which is still rare. Patient may experience heart palpitations and excitation. Some of the possible adverse effects include: sloughing of tissue; transitory taste perversion; high plasma concentration can induce central nervous system excitation; cardiovascular symptoms include hypertension, tachycardia and arrhythmias; allergic reaction to particular anesthetic ingredients; suppression of gag reflex; methemoglobinemia with prilocaine and benzocaine (symptoms can include shortness of breath, a bluish discoloration of the skin, headache, fatigue, and dizziness).

Potential benefits: The patient remains awake and can respond to directions and questions. Pain is lessened or eliminated during the dental treatment.

Please note that local anesthesia with or without compounded topical anesthetics might still be needed with option 2: nitrous oxide/oxygen inhalation sedation, option 3: conscious sedation, option 4: deep sedation, option 5: general anesthesia.

OPTION 2: NITROUS OXIDE/OXYGEN INHALATION SEDATION

Nitrous oxide/oxygen (N₂O) inhalation is a mild form of conscious sedation used to calm an anxious patient. The patient is observed while N₂O is administered and after the completion of treatment until the patient is fully recovered from its effect.

Risks include but are not limited to: An early effect may be disorientation and temporary numbness and tingling. Nausea and vomiting may occur infrequently. If the patient will not accept wearing the N₂O mask during treatment, nitrous oxide/oxygen cannot be used.

Potential benefits: The patient remains awake and can respond to directions and questions. N₂O helps overcome apprehension, anxiety or fear.

OPTION 3: CONSCIOUS SEDATION

Conscious sedation is a controlled, drug-induced, minimally depressed level of consciousness or awareness that allows the patient to breathe independently and continuously respond appropriately to physical stimulation and/or verbal command, e.g., "open your eyes."

Local anesthetic is still required to numb the area of treatment. This type of anesthesia may be administered orally (a drink or a pill), injected into a muscle or via a needle inserted into a vein.

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Risks include but are not limited to: Infection, swelling, discoloration, bruising, headache, tenderness at the needle site and vein (phlebitis), dizziness, nausea and vomiting can occur. Adverse reactions to medication including allergic and life-threatening reactions, are possible though rare. Complications may require hospitalization or even result in brain damage or death. With any patient, reflexes are delayed. Children: Patients can have an immediate response to oral conscious sedation similar to being upset before the medication calms them. Adults: Patients must not drive a car or operate machinery for 24 hours after the termination of treatment, because the effects of sedation remain in the system even after the patient is awake and mobile.

Potential benefits: Pain is lessened or eliminated during dental treatment. Stress and anxiety can be greatly reduced and often there is no memory of the treatment.

OPTION 4: DEEP SEDATION

Deep sedation is a controlled, drug-induced state of depressed consciousness or awareness from which the patient is not easily aroused that may be accompanied by a partial loss of protective reflexes, including the ability to breathe without assistance and/or respond to physical stimulation or verbal command.

Local anesthetic is still required for numbness to the area of treatment. This type of anesthesia is often called a light general anesthesia and is usually administered in a dental office setting.

Risks include but are not limited to: Infection, swelling, discoloration, bruising and tenderness at the needle site (phlebitis) may occur. Dizziness, nausea and vomiting can occur. Adverse reactions to medication including allergic and life-threatening reactions are possible though rare. Complications may require hospitalization or even result in brain damage or death. A responsible escort must bring the patient to the office, take the patient home and stay with them. Patients must not drive a car or operate machinery for 24 hours because the effects of the sedative remain in the system even after the patient is awake and mobile.

Potential benefits: Pain can be lessened or eliminated during the dental treatment. Stress and anxiety can be greatly reduced and often there is no memory of the treatment.

OPTION 5: GENERAL ANESTHESIA

General anesthesia is a controlled, drug-induced state of unconsciousness or lack of awareness, accompanied by partial or complete loss of protective reflexes, including an inability to breathe without assistance and/or respond purposefully to physical stimulation or verbal command.

This type of anesthesia is usually administered in a hospital or a surgery center. Local anesthesia is still typically

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utilized.

Risks include but are not limited to: Infection, swelling, discoloration, bruising, and tenderness at the needle site (phlebitis) may occur. Dizziness, nausea and vomiting can occur. Adverse reactions to medication including allergic and life-threatening reactions are possible though rare. Complications may require hospitalization or even result in brain damage or death. A responsible escort must bring the patient to the office, take the patient home and stay with them. Patients must not drive a car or operate machinery for 24 hours because the effects of sedation remain in the system even after the patient is awake and mobile.

Potential benefit: Pain is eliminated and the patient has no memory or recall of the surgical procedure.

ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS, NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

If a particular level of anesthesia does not relieve the patient's anxiety or pain, in the dentist's clinical judgment and if the individual patient can tolerate it, another level of anesthesia may be needed. Not every dental office or dentist is equipped or trained to administer every type of anesthesia. It may be necessary to refer the patient to another facility or to another dentist who has the appropriate equipment or credentials, or an anesthesiologist may be utilized in the office. Those types of services may result in additional charges.

FOR ALL FEMALE PATIENTS

Because anesthetics, medications and drugs may be harmful to an unborn child and may cause birth defects or spontaneous abortion, every female must inform the provider of anesthesia if she could be or is pregnant. Anesthetics, medications and drugs may affect the behavior of a nursing baby. In either of these situations, the anesthesia and treatment may be postponed.

FOR ALL PATIENTS

I understand that all medications in this office have the potential for accompanying risks, side effects and drug interactions. They can cause redness and swelling of the tissues, pain, itching, vomiting and/or anaphylactic shock. I attest that to my knowledge, I have given an accurate report of my physical and mental health history. I have also report any prior allergic or unusual reactions to drugs, food, insect bites, anesthetics, pollens, dust, blood or body diseases, gum or skin reactions, abnormal bleeding or any other conditions related to my health.

I understand that every reasonable effort will be made to ensure the success of my treatment. I further understand that each person and treatment situation is unique, and therefore, no guarantee or assurance has been given to me by anyone that the proposed treatment or surgery will cure or improve the condition(s) listed above.

I have been given the opportunity to ask questions about the recommended method of anesthesia and believe that I have sufficient information to give my consent as noted below.

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CONSENT

I have been informed, both verbally and by the information provided on this form, of the risks and benefits and alternatives of the proposed treatment. I have been informed, both verbally and by the information provided on this form of the material risks and benefits of alternative treatment and of electing not to treat my condition. I certify that I have read and understand the above information and that the explanations referred to are understood by me, that my questions have been answered. I authorize and direct the dentist to do whatever he/she deems necessary and advisable under the circumstances. I consent to have the above-mentioned treatment. While the treatment may be covered by my medical and/or dental insurance, I accept any financial responsibility for this treatment and authorize treatment.

If I am signing for a minor child, I attest that I am the parent and/or a legal guardian or I have the permission of the child's parent and/or a legal guardian (a separate authorization form is required). If I am signing for an adult, I attest that I am a legal guardian and am authorized to make medical and financial decision on patient's behalf.

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