



Caring For Your Child After A Sedation Visit

Please be aware that although your child's dental visit is completed, the sedative medication must be cleared from the body until s/he returns to normal. The time needed to clear the medication can range from 3 hours to 12 hours. Please read through these instructions to ensure a smooth recovery.

- Once home, your child will still be drowsy and must remain under adult supervision until fully recovered from the effects of the sedation. If your child wants to sleep, position your child on his/her side with the head supported and the chin up. During this period, check your child's breathing and airway every three to five minutes. If your child is snoring, reposition the head until the snoring disappears and your child breathes normally. If breathing becomes abnormal or you are unable to arouse your child, call 911 immediately.
- Nausea and vomiting are occasional side effects of sedation. If vomiting occurs, immediately clear the material from your child's mouth. Once again, be sure that breathing is normal. If breathing becomes abnormal or you are unable to arouse your child, call 911 immediately. If vomiting persists for 20 to 40 minutes, contact our office immediately.
- Your child may be drowsy for some time after the sedation appointment. Restrict activities for the remainder of the day. Prohibit potentially harmful activities such as bike riding, swimming, using playground equipment, or any activity where balance is important.
- In addition to the sedative medications, we often use local anesthetic to numb the mouth during dental treatment. The numbness usually lasts two to four hours. Watch to see that your child does not bite, scratch, or injure the cheek, lips, or tongue during this time.
- Children may be irritable after treatment. If this occurs, stay with your child and provide a calm environment. If you believe the irritability is caused by discomfort, you may give your child acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®). Follow the instructions on the bottle for dosing based upon your child's age/weight.
- Once your child is alert, you may give him/her sips of clear liquids to prevent nausea and dehydration. Small drinks taken repeatedly are preferable to large amounts. The first meal should be something light and easily digestible (e.g., apple sauce, soup, Jell-O®). Do not give fatty or spicy foods (e.g., milk, cheese, yogurt, French fries, tacos, salsa).
- A slight fever (temperature to 100.5° Fahrenheit) is not uncommon after sedation. You may give your child acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®). Follow the instructions on the bottle for dosing based upon your child's age/ weight. Because dehydration may cause a slight increase in temperature, clear fluids may help correct this condition. If a higher fever develops or the fever persists, call our office.

Please feel free to call the office for any questions or concerns that you might have.