

POST IV & GENERAL ANESTHESIA INSTRUCTIONS



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The patient has recently been sedated with a general anesthetic to complete their dental treatment. Therefore, please be aware of some of the following instructions:

The patient may be drowsy throughout the day.

Please remember to keep meals light and encourage the patient to eat slowly. It is fine to let them sleep, however, please wake them up every hour to give them clear fluids, and do not put them to bed unattended and close the door.

The patient's motor abilities (coordination) may be affected.

Therefore, when the patient is trying to walk it is imperative to give them some assistance so that they do not fall and hurt themselves. This is a day to encourage the patient to participate in nice quiet activities (TV, movies, books, puzzles, etc.). Do not let the patient ride bicycles, play on swing sets, run up or down stairs or otherwise participate in activities which may require coordination.

Usually, if the patient has nausea or vomiting from the anesthetic medications, it will occur in the recovery area.

However, with movement such as walking or the car ride home, some children can experience this problem at a later time. It is important to keep your child well hydrated by requesting that they drink plenty of liquids (water, ginger ale, etc.). Even frozen popsicles can help keep your child hydrated. If at any time you become concerned that your child is becoming dehydrated do not hesitate to call us.

The patient may experience some discomfort following treatment.

Do not hesitate to give children over-the-counter analgesics (Children's Tylenol or Motrin) to help control their pain. Make sure you follow the medication instructions to assure proper dosing for your child. Do not give your child any pain medication which is prescription or contains codeine or other narcotic medications, unless prescribed by your doctor. Adult patients will be given prescription pain medication and antibiotics. Take them as directed.

Occasionally, the patient may get a nose bleed following treatment.

Stop the flow with a tissue and instruct the child to tip his or her head back. This is a minor side effect of placing a tube in your child's nose for surgery.

It is common for the patient's gums to swell or bleed following surgery, especially if white or silver crowns were placed or if the patient had extractions.

Healing will take a few days, but is important to maintain hygiene to the best of your ability. Continue to brush normally, however, be mindful of painful areas. A great trick is to mix a solution of 50/50 Listerine to water, dip a cotton swab into the mixture, and apply it to your child's gums. This will fight infection, and is especially good if your child isn't allowing you to brush well post operatively. Adult patients should rinse with warm salt water or listerine.

Remember, if your child has had white or silver crowns placed, chewy candies and gum should be avoided. These will almost always pull the crowns off.

If at any time you become concerned with the course of your child's recovery or have questions concerning their treatment, do not hesitate to contact us or take your child immediately to the hospital. Our office telephone number is 757-769-7155.