

Local Anesthesia:

Please be aware if your child is getting local anesthetic (numbing) for his/her procedure, you will need to keep them out of school until the numbness wears off, we have found that patients have a better post operative recovery if they are taken care of by a parent , family member or baby sitter. We want to make sure that your child is doing well, they are not in pain and that they have had something to eat before sending them back to school or daycare. Also please plan on a soft meal after the procedure, something that does not require a lot of chewing like a smoothie, yogurt or soup. **Usually local anesthesia (numbness) lasts about one hour to one hour and a half after the procedure is completed.**

Laughing gas or Nitrous Oxide:

Nitrous oxide is blend of two gases oxygen and nitrous oxide is and used to calm an anxious patient. Nitrous oxide is colorless and odorless, upon application a special and pleasant flavoring can be added to your child's mask. Nitrous oxide is not only effective is alleviating anxiety but it is also a potent pain buffer, therefore is can minimize any discomfort a patient may experience during dental treatment. Oxygen is ALWAYS administered simultaneously with nitrous oxide through a mask placed on the nose. Pure oxygen is administered at the end of the treatment in order to flush out nitrous oxide from the system and minimize the effects of the gas.

Risks include but are not limited to: an inability to perceive spatial orientation and dizziness, temporary numbness, and tingling. Nausea and vomiting may occur. If the patient will not accept the mask nitrous oxide cannot be administered.

Benefits: the patient remains awake and can respond to directions and questions, nitrous oxide can help overcome apprehension, discomfort and fear and anxiety.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO BE ON A EMPTY STOMACH AT LEAST THREE HOURS BEFORE THEIR PROCEDURE, IN AN EFFORT TO MINIMIZE ANY NAUSEA AND VOMITING. Tell the dentist of any breathing condition that may make breathing through the nose difficult, this may reduce the effectiveness of the gas. Also be sure to let the dentist know of ANY medications your child may be taking.

