

Post-Operative Instructions For Your Child's I.V. Sedation

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To facilitate dental treatment, your child has been anesthetized with sedative medications. Bay Area Anesthesia has provided instructions for the sedative medications that were used and how to take care of your child. Here are some instructions on how to care for your child after his/her dental treatment:

1. If teeth were extracted, your child has been given local anesthetic. This means that all or part of their lips, cheeks, and/or tongue is "numb." Most children do not know what "numbness" is and think that there is something on their face that makes it feel that way. The anesthetic usually wears off within one to two hours. It is important that you watch your child closely to prevent them from biting, pinching, or scratching their face, lips or tongue while they are "numb."
2. Your child should have only soft foods until evening. Because of the sedation, your child may not chew effectively and could choke on foods that are not soft and require chewing. Your child should be eating normally by evening and certainly by tomorrow (depending upon what was done today). If your child has had teeth extracted, do not allow them to drink through a straw, avoid forceful rinsing or spitting, and have them avoid crunchy or crumbly foods (potato chips, crackers, cookies, etc.) for a couple of days so that the extraction site can heal.
3. Your child should experience very little if any discomfort due to the dental treatment. If crowns were placed, they may have some soreness from the crowns pushing their gums out of the way. This should subside in a few days. However, depending on the type of treatment, it is possible that you may want to give your child some Children's Tylenol. Be sure to read and follow the instructions on the package regarding dosage.
4. It is essential that you help your child keep their teeth clean. In doing so, you will help maintain the restorations (fillings, crowns, etc.) placed today and you will hopefully prevent or at least control future cavities. Be sure you use dental floss as well as a tooth brush to clean your child's teeth.
5. If your child has had tooth-colored fillings or resin crowns on their teeth, you may want to swab these teeth with a dilute solution of hydrogen peroxide mixed 1:1 with water or a hydrogen peroxide mouth rinse available at drug stores (e.g. Peroxyl). This will help keep the plastic as clean and white as possible.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS,
PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL ANYTIME**