

Pediatric Sedation - Information for Parents

Your child has been selected to have sedation for his/her surgical procedure. We want this to be a pleasant procedure and are providing information about the anesthesia portion of the procedure to make you as parents feel more comfortable about the procedure.

Training of Your Doctors

Dr. Schmitz is a Board-certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is the only specialty in either medicine or dentistry where the doctors receive significant anesthesia training during their residency programs. The only other doctors who receive more anesthesia training are Anesthesiologists. All Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons complete 4-6 months of training in General Anesthesia as part of their residency programs. The doctors at San Pedro Facial Surgery have provided anesthesia/sedation safely to over 10,000 patients in the last several years. Many of these cases have been for pediatric patients for procedures performed in our office.

Goals for Pediatric Anesthesia

We want your child to be comfortable during his/her procedure. The goals of our anesthesia will be to: 1) make your child cooperative, 2) raise your child's pain threshold, and 3) reduce your child's memory of the procedure. To do this, we will use safe and short-acting medicines to accomplish these goals.

Monitoring

All anesthesia in our office is provided just as it would be in a hospital setting. All patient's vital signs are monitored during the procedure and through recovery. Patients will only be discharged when their vital signs are back to their starting levels. A nurse will assist with monitoring your child's surgery and recovery.

Specifics for Pediatric Anesthesia

Pediatric patients are not small adults. As a result, their anesthesia/sedation is tailored specifically for them. All of the medicines administered to child are calculated based on the medication and on their body weight. Many pediatric patients are prescribed an oral sedative to take the morning before surgery. This will make your child sleepy. Many children are then administered nitrous oxide (laughing gas) through a nasal mask. This will make them sleepy, relaxed, as well as raise their pain threshold. Patients will then either be administered medications through a "shot in the arm or butt" or an IV will be started to administer medications. Many times we will use a skin anesthetic (EMLA) to "deaden" the skin prior to administering a "shot" to children.

Recovery

The medications which we use are all short-acting and are tailored to be gone within an hour or two. Some children will exhibit a prolonged recovery and remain sleepy; we will monitor them in our outpatient recovery area until it is comfortable for you to take them home. It is not unusual for children to cry when they recover from anesthesia. This is perfectly normal and improves as the medications leave their system.