



PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

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Why Outpatient General Anesthesia versus In-Office Sedation?

1. All treatment can be done at one visit. With in-office sedation, it can take several visits to complete the necessary treatment. With increased treatment visits and time, one can also see an increased chance that severely decayed teeth may abscess before treatment can be completed.
2. With outpatient general anesthesia treatment, the child is completely asleep. They have no memory of the visit and will look forward to coming back to the dentist for future visits.
3. Outpatient general anesthesia treatment will be easier for the child psychologically.
4. Risks are similar or less due to being at the hospital health care facility in the event of an emergency. The risks of general anesthesia are similar to sedation since you are at a hospital facility that can handle any problem in the event of an emergency.
5. Certain types of treatment such as extensive anterior crowns may only be possible for patient while asleep. The restorative treatment may also be completed to the best ability of the pediatric dentist while the child is under general anesthesia.
6. Multiple office sedation appointments can become increasingly difficult for a child.
7. With office sedation, children can become very fussy, groggy, disoriented or combative which often extremely upsets the parents.
8. With outpatient general anesthesia, there is minimal local anesthesia or medicine to drink and the child will leave the facility fairly awake and alert.
9. On young children, general anesthesia when done through the office, may be covered by many medical insurance companies, whereas office sedation is not. Therefore, it can be more cost efficient for the patient to do treatment in the O.R. vs. the office due to the fact that office sedation costs are not covered by dental or medical insurance.
10. Parents are out of work only one day for outpatient general anesthesia vs. several days for office treatment, therefore more cost effective.
11. When doing office sedation it is requested that two adults accompany the child on the day of treatment.

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