

Conscious Sedation: Important Information

What is conscious sedation?

Conscious sedation is a way of using medication to relax a child without the loss of consciousness.

Why use conscious sedation?

Conscious sedation aids in calming a child so that he or she can accept dental treatment in a more relaxed state. This can prevent injury to the patient and provide a better environment for delivering quality dental care. Keep in mind that it is difficult to do dentistry on a moving child.

Is sedation safe?

Dr. Barham has had 5 years of advanced training to administer, monitor and manage sedated patients. She is certified in CPR/Pediatric Advanced Life Support and exceeds the standard of care in her monitoring and emergency equipment.

INSTRUCTIONS: Before and after your child's sedation appointment:

BEFORE TREATMENT:

1. No eating or drinking after 12 midnight the night before your child sedation appointment.
2. We insist that two parents are present for the appointment. One to drive home and the other to sit with the child in the car to observe them.
3. Your child cannot be sedated with a severe cough or cold, fever or any other illness. Please notify our office immediately, should any of these develop before their appointment time.
4. Dress your child in comfortable, light and loose fitting clothing.
5. Remove all nail polish, from both fingers and toes, as this may inhibit the effectiveness of the monitoring.

AFTER TREATMENT:

1. Closely supervise your child's activity for the remainder of the day.
2. Encourage your child to drink clear liquids such as water, sprite or ginger ale, as soon as possible. This helps prevent nausea and dehydration.
3. We advise you to keep your child home from school or daycare after sedation for the remainder of that day.
4. Your child should not perform any activities such as riding a bike, sports, playing outside the remainder of the day.
5. The second adult should sit with the child on the way home with the child in order to observe them.

REASONS TO CALL THE DOCTOR:

1. Your child is unable to eat or drink
2. Your child experience excessive vomiting or pain
3. Your child develops a rash
4. If your child has difficulty breathing