

Advantages of the surgery

- ◆ to prevent dental diseases in the primary and permanent dentition
- ◆ to reduce the risk of the child experiencing pain or infection or acquiring treatment-induced dental anxiety if dental caries does occur
- ◆ for the child to grow up feeling positive about their oral health and with the skills and motivation to maintain it

Risks of surgery

- ◆ Common: feeling sick, vomiting, shivering, headache, sore throat, feeling tired and confused
- ◆ Uncommon: breathing problems, unintentional damage to teeth, awareness.
- ◆ Very rare: drug reactions, brain damage, risk of death

Other options if surgery is declined

To consider the more common behavior management techniques such as completion of treatment under local analgesia alone or in a combination with sedation.

For pharmacological relief anxiety and induction of sedation in children for dentistry, two main routes of administration are available:

- Inhalation with nitrous oxide & oxygen
- Oral (less common nowadays)

Before the surgery

Pre-admission clinic procedures

- ◆ Your child will be given and emphasis on prevention advice
- ◆ Parents or legal guardian are responsible to inform and update patient's medical history to a specialist in paediatric dentistry. Highlight any specific medical concerns where appropriate.
- ◆ Your child weight and height will be document.
- ◆ Your contact details including telephone number will be check and update
- ◆ Intra or extra oral radiographs or both (where appropriate) may be taken prior to treatment planning before procedure.
- ◆ Your child will be examine intraorally for any special considerations or specific treatment needs. The dentist will explain on treatment required and you may ask further questions if necessary.
- ◆ Your child will be sent to pre-anesthetic assessment for patient's suitability on a day surgery.

Commonly asked questions

- ◇ Is tooth extraction painful?
It is normal to feel some pain or discomfort after the anaesthesia wears off. For 24 hours after having a tooth pulled, you should expect some swelling or residual bleeding. However, your child will be prescribed with painkillers. Contact your child dentist if the pain and bleeding is still severe after 24 hours.
- ◇ Is general anaesthesia safe for dental work?
General anaesthesia is safe for dental work as it will help your child to completely asleep and pain free.

Useful contact numbers

Klinik Pergigian Pediatrik & Ortodontik,
Fakulti Pergigian,
Universiti Malaya
Tel No. : 03-79674853/ 03-79677437



DENTAL TREATMENT UNDER GA



Introduction to the surgery:

The provision of adequate anxiety control is an integral part of the practice of dentistry. All patients need and deserve to expect appropriate and individually considered pain and anxiety control for any dental procedure.

General anaesthesia (GA) is one of the methods used to reduce pain and anxiety associated with dental treatment. Since 2001, it has been restricted to a hospital setting where critical care facilities are available. Dental caries is the most common reason a child between five to nine years of age is admitted to the hospital.

General anaesthetics have risks of morbidity and mortality therefore it should only be used when local anesthetic and or conscious sedation have been attempted or is inappropriate. Dental treatment should only be performed under general anesthesia when this is considered to be the most clinically appropriate method of management. Valid consent must be taken prior to a GA including risks of the general anaesthetic.

Indications

- ◆ Dental anxiety/phobia
- ◆ Child unable to cope with treatment under local anaesthetic and or conscious sedation
- ◆ Complex, prolonged or surgical procedure
- ◆ Extractions in multiple quadrants
- ◆ Patients medical history
- ◆ Acute dental infection

Preparing for admission

A. Advices prior to admission

It is important for you to follow these instructions before the surgery. If not, we may not be able to go ahead with your treatment.

- ◆ If your child develops a cold or feel unwell on the day before or the day of the treatment, please call us for advice; tel num: 03-79674853/03-79677437
- ◆ A responsible adult escort (preferably parents (mother, father or both) or legal guardian) who is capable of looking after the patient unaided, should be present and accompany the patient home after treatment under general anaesthesia.
- ◆ Please bath or shower your child on the morning of the surgery and wear loose and comfortable clothing and shoes.
- ◆ Please remove and leave all jewellery at home. If your child has jewellery that cannot be removed, tell us so we can tape it before surgery. We do this so it does not interfere with our equipment during surgery.

B. Medications, fasting etc

- ◆ Do not eat or drink for six hours prior to your procedure, this includes sweets, milk and water. If your child has a morning appointment (8:00 am) your last meal and drink must be before 2:00 am.
- ◆ Please bring all medications that your child is currently taking to the day care ward so that we know what is he/she taking. This includes all prescription medication and inhalers, medication you have bought and alternative medicines, such as herbal remedies.

Arrival to UMMC

On the day of appointment (every Tuesday for dental day care surgery), please register your child at the day care ward level 4, Menara Timur not later than 7:45 am. At the day care ward, a receptionist will take and escort you and your child to a room where you will meet the team looking after your child.

A. Operation

Anesthesia: refer anesthesia leaflet

B. After the operation

- After treatment, your child will be taken to the recovery room for a couple of hours. This is where he/she will wake up.
- Your child will have an oxygen mask on their face, which is normal practice after an anaesthetic. The oxygen helps to clear the anaesthetic from their body while they are recovering.
- If your child has had teeth extracted, they will have a fabric dressing in their mouth and there may be some blood present.
- Your child will have their blood pressure and pulse checked regularly in the recovery room. Additional to it, they will also check your child oxygen level using a clip on their finger.
- If your child experiences any pain or discomfort, please tell the recovery nurse so that they can be given medication to relieve it.
- We will explain the treatment we have done on your child.
- We will also give instructions on how to look after their mouth on the day of surgery and days after.
- We will explain on medication we prescribed to your child. Please ask questions if you need more clarifications.
- Before you leave the dental team staff nurse will let you know your child appointment follow up.

DENTAL CARE UNDER GENERAL ANAESTHESIA – DISCHARGE ADVISE FOR PARENTS

We hope the following information will be of help to you:

You will be able to take your child home when you and the nurses feel confident that she/he

- ◆ Can walk steadily around the ward
- ◆ Is reasonably comfortable
- ◆ Is not feeling sick
- ◆ Is drinking water/juice and able to hold it down

Eating and Drinking:

Your child needs to have a soft, smooth diet and nothing which is too warm or too cold, to avoid discomfort and further bleeding

Oral Hygiene

It is important to maintain good oral hygiene as this will promote healing.

ON THE DAY OF EXTRACTIONS:

Your child should avoid rinsing his/her mouth as this may initiate bleeding.

THE FOLLOWING DAY AFTER THE OPERATION:

You may gently introduce brushing as and when comfortable.

Problem to look for:

Pain: Following dental extractions, a certain amount of discomfort is inevitable. Our aim is for your child to be as comfortable as possible after their operation. Your child may be discharged with pain relieving medication. Please follow the advice from the nursing staff / doctor in charge on how to take this medication. If you do not have medication at home please buy paracetamol syrup from a pharmacy.

Swelling: Your child may experience facial swelling. This common and will disappear within a few days. You may find it helpful to wrap something cool (e.g. ice cube) in a towel and rest it on the swollen area for a few minutes.

Bleeding: Do not be alarmed if there is a small amount of blood from the extraction sockets. Roll up a clean handkerchief or gauze, moisten with warm water, place over the socket and have your child bite firmly for at least 10 minutes. If this fails to control the bleeding after about 30 minutes, seek professional help.

Stitches: Any dissolving stitches should be gone in a week. Non-dissolving stitches need to be removed and you should receive an appointment for this.

Now that your child is going home, we wish to remind you that after a general anaesthetic there is a period in which his/her judgement, performance and reaction time are affected by the anaesthetic, even though the child may feel quite normal again. It is therefore very important in the 24 hours after the operation that your child:

- ◆ is not allowed to do anything potentially dangerous to her/himself or others, such as playing in an adventure playground, riding a bicycle, climbing trees, swimming, or going out by themselves.
- ◆ remains in the immediate care of a responsible adult.
- ◆ is given painkillers if necessary or as directed by the dentist