



## **Anesthesia In The Periodontal/Oral Surgery Practice**

The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) and the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) recognize that many patients may be concerned about the administration of anesthesia when undergoing periodontal surgery treatment or oral and maxillofacial surgery treatment. The ultimate goal of AAOMS and AAP is to provide in a safe manner the highest quality of patient care. For this reason, methods to ensure patient safety and protect patients from undue risk have long been the standard in the education and practice of periodontists and oral surgeons.

Ambulatory (or outpatient) anesthesia is safe, convenient and cost effective. In fact, periodontists and oral surgeons have an established history of providing quality anesthesia care in the office setting. Recent studies indicate that the mortality rate is 1:600,000—750,000 for deep sedation/general anesthesia administered by the dental surgeon also performing the surgical procedure. To put this in perspective, the estimated risk of mortality/morbidity during general anesthesia administered for a tonsillectomy is 1:40,000.

Periodontics and Oral Surgery are specialties of dentistry. Your periodontist and oral surgeon are thoroughly trained in the proper administration of anesthetic agents including pain and anxiety control and possesses extensive clinical experience in anesthesia in their respective fields.

General Anesthesia, IV sedation, or local anesthesia as well as virtually all drugs, medication and treatments carry an inherent risk. Periodontists and oral surgeons have been in the forefront to promote regulations and parameters of care for anesthesia delivery to help reduce this risk to a minimum. Ongoing voluntary self-regulation of the specialty and its member periodontists and oral surgeons have helped reduce this risk to patients even further.

No one should refrain from obtaining needed oral health care out of fear of anesthesia. It is important to realize that there is very little risk of anesthesia complications in the periodontal and oral surgery office that follows established guidelines.

If you have any questions or concerns about anesthesia, discuss them with your periodontist or oral surgeon. He will be happy to explain the procedure followed in the office.

## **Pre-Operative Instructions For Periodontal and Oral Surgery With Sedation/General Anesthesia**

You have a right to be informed about your diagnosis and planned surgery so that you may make a decision whether to undergo the procedure after knowing the risks and hazards. This disclosure is not meant to frighten or alarm you. It is simply an effort to make you better informed so you may give or withhold your consent to the procedure.

**Absolutely do not eat or drink anything at least eight (8) hours prior to your appointment (including water).** If you have food or liquid in your stomach while under anesthesia, you could vomit and the **contents of your stomach would enter your lungs and death could result.**

If your surgery is in the morning, do not eat or drink anything between bedtime and your scheduled appointment. If your surgery is in the afternoon, a light liquid breakfast before 7:00 AM is encouraged.

Unless specified by your doctor, all medicines taken on a routine basis should be continued without interruption. Please swallow with a minimal amount of water.

Parents of small children must not permit their child to get food from other children, water from the bathroom sink, etc.

**A responsible adult, over 18 years of age, must accompany you to the clinic and remain here throughout the entire procedure.** Following the sedation, this responsible adult must escort the patient home and a responsible adult should remain with the patient for the next 6-8 hours.

Minors (persons under the age of 18 years) must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Do not ignore a head or chest cold when oral surgery is to be performed. Call us immediately if you have any symptoms as a change of appointment will probably be necessary.

If you have ever had a severe illness of any type, please inform us (e.g. Rheumatic Fever, Glomerulonephritis, Diabetes, Porphyria, Lung or Heart problems, Asthma, Allergy history). Furthermore, tell us of any medications you are currently taking.

If you have had a previous general anesthetic inform us of the date of anesthetic and of any problems that you might have had with the anesthetic.

Your mouth and teeth should be well cleansed to help avoid infection. If there is infection present, three percent (3%) hydrogen peroxide diluted to 1/2 strength should be used three times daily for two to three days prior to your appointment. Continue to brush your teeth as usual.

Contact lenses must not be worn during surgery. Eye make-up should not be worn. A loose fitting short-sleeve shirt or blouse should be worn as you will be wearing a blood pressure cuff during the procedure. Do not wear wigs, or dark nail polish. Leave all jewelry, dentures and glasses with the person who accompanies you. Also, plan to have someone care for your minor children at home. Upon the completion of your surgery, you will remain in the clinic until the doctor feels you are sufficiently recovered and are ready to leave for home.

On occasion, inflammation of the vein in the area of the needle insertion will occur in the first 3/4 weeks following surgery. Pain and tenderness will usually be relieved by using warm, moist packs in the area. If the problem persists, you should immediately contact your physician and/or our office