

Caring for your child after intravenous sedation for dental treatment

Information for patients, parents and carers

This leaflet contains information about how to look after your child after intravenous sedation for dental treatment. If you have any questions, please speak to the dentist looking after your child.

How will my child feel after the treatment under sedation?

The sedation will make your child feel very unsteady on their feet. They will also feel drowsy.

Does the sedation affect the mouth?

Not directly. Your child may have a numb lip and mouth for about 2 hours after the dental treatment. This is due to the local anaesthetic. Numbness may be mistaken for pain, so reassure your child that it will get better soon.

Can my child eat afterwards?

Your child can drink normally, however, it may be better to avoid eating until the numb feeling has gone away. Do not let your child chew the numb lip as it will be very painful later. Please follow the instructions in the '*Caring for your child's mouth after tooth extractions or minor oral surgery*' leaflet.

How long will my child be drowsy?

Your child should start to feel normal after approximately 3 hours, although the medicine will remain in the system for approximately 24 hours.

Can my child return to school?

No, not on the day of sedation. Your child should be able to return to school the next day. Your child should not ride a bike or scooter or take part in any other physical activity for the next 24 hours.

Is drowsiness the only thing I may expect?

Each child reacts differently. Some will feel sleepy, others will get very agitated or upset as they may be confused or distressed about the way they feel or the numb feeling. This could last for 2 to 3 hours.

How soon can I take my child home?

You can take your child home after approximately half an hour, depending on your child's recovery. You should preferably go home by car. You must stay with your child for the rest of the day.

Do I need to take any other precautions?

You should not leave your child unattended or left sleeping with the head tilted forwards. This may close the airways and impair normal breathing.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about the information in this leaflet, please contact the Department of Paediatric Dentistry team. If your child has persistent bleeding, severe swelling or severe pain, please contact us. If out of hours or at weekends, please call NHS 111 or attend your local A&E department for advice.

Central Referral Office	020 3299 4988
Clinic Appointments	020 3299 3055
Secretary	020 3299 3375
	020 3299 4983

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.kch.nhs.uk/patientsvisitors/patients/leaflets

Sharing your information

We have teamed up with Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in a partnership known as King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at Guy's or St Thomas'. To make sure everyone you meet always has the most up-to-date information about your health, we may share information about you between the hospitals.

Care provided by students

We provide clinical training where our students get practical experience by treating patients. Please tell your dentist if you do not want students to be involved in your care. Your treatment will not be affected by your decision.

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. They can also pass on praise or thanks to our teams. The PALS office is located on the ground floor of the Hambleton Wing, near the main entrance on Bessemer Road - staff will be happy to direct you.

PALS at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS

Tel: 020 3299 3601

Email: kch-tr.palsdh@nhs.net

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact our Communications and Interpreting telephone line on 020 3299 4826 or email kch-tr.accessibility@nhs.net