



General Anesthesia & Your Child's Dental Visit

Sometimes children need **general anesthesia (GA)** so we can safely complete their dental treatment. This is especially helpful for little ones who need:

- X-rays or several procedures at once,
- longer treatments, or
- care that would be difficult while awake.

Rest assured: Your child's treatment will be completed by our **Board-Certified Pediatric Dentist with over 14 years of experience** in caring for children.

What to Expect in Treatment

Every child's needs are different, but common treatments include:

- Silver crowns on back molars
- White crowns (with silver backing) on front teeth
- White fillings for small cavities
- Baby "nerve treatments" for deeper cavities
- Tooth extractions for larger decay, infection, abscess, or very loose baby teeth

Treatment may be completed in a hospital, ambulatory surgery center, or office setting.

Important Things to Know

Before Surgery

- **Medical Clearance:** 30 days before surgery, your pediatrician must complete a physical and send it to us for the anesthesia team to review.
- **Arrival Time:** A scheduling nurse will call you **one business day before** surgery with your child's exact arrival time.

Night Before Surgery

- **Nothing to eat or drink after midnight** — no food, milk, formula, juice, gum, or candy. (Clear water is also not allowed.)
- Eating or drinking can be dangerous during anesthesia and will cancel the procedure. Please monitor closely.
- No school the day of surgery.



Day of Surgery

- **Consent:** A parent or legal guardian must attend to sign consent forms. (Grandparents, aunts, uncles, or friends cannot sign.)
- **Check-In:** The anesthesia team will check vital signs, weight, and medical history.
- **Going to Sleep:** Your child will walk with a nurse to the operating room. A soft mask will gently help them fall asleep before any IV or breathing tube is placed (your child will not feel these).
- **During Surgery:** Parents cannot be in the operating room, but you'll be reunited with your child in recovery.

After Surgery

- You'll join your child as they wake up in recovery. When it's safe, you may carry or wheelchair them to the car.
- Please arrange **private transportation home**, uber or Lyft rides are ok (no public transport, no bus or subway).
- Expect to stay most of the day until anesthesia fully wears off.

At Home Care

- Stick to **soft foods** (popsicles, ice cream, soup, pancakes, pasta, Jello) for 2-3 days.
- Use **Tylenol or Motrin** for discomfort.
- Your child should rest at home under adult supervision with minimal activity for the day.

We know this is a big day for your child, and we're here to make it as safe, smooth, and stress-free as possible. If you have any questions, please reach out to your patient coordinator—we're happy to help!