

ABC123 Pediatric Dentistry Nitrous Oxide Overview

Sometimes a child may feel anxious before or during treatment. Your child may need more support than a gentle, caring manner to feel comfortable. Nitrous oxide/oxygen is a safe, effective sedative agent used to calm a child's fear of the dental visit and enhance effective communication. Additionally, it works well for children whose gag reflex interferes with dental treatment. It is important that children remain calm and still during dental treatment to assure that your child receives high quality, professional dental care. **The following information will help parents understand the use of nitrous oxide and oxygen gases for safe analgesia.**

- It is one of the safest routes for anesthesia in the dental office because your child remains awake, responsive and breathes on their own without assistance. **It is a 100% reversible and is non-allergenic.**
- More oxygen is administered than what we breathe in normal room air. This provides a wide margin of safety. The gas is usually breathed via a small mask placed over the nose and is taken into the lungs.
- Five minutes of pure oxygen is given at the end of the treatment appointment to remove the effects of the Nitrous oxide gas.
- Sometimes known as **"laughing gas"** because some patients become so comfortable and relaxed they laugh. They sometimes report dreaming and their arms and legs **may feel "tingly."** It raises the pain threshold and may even make the time appear to pass quickly. If your child is worried by the sights, sounds or sensations of dental treatment, he or she may respond more positively with the use of nitrous oxide/oxygen.
- The child is awake and sometimes remains relaxed after dental treatment but will continue to feel numbness in their lips around the treated area due to the local anesthesia. **Please monitor your child after treatment so that they do not bite their cheek, tongue, lips or scratch themselves.**

Possible side effects and special instructions

- Slight nausea or upset stomach is sometimes seen if the child has a full stomach. It is for this reason that we ask that you not give your child anything to eat or drink 2 hours prior to treatment with nitrous to help minimize this side effect.
- **Please note, if Nitrous is given, you are responsible for the cost even if it is not effective due to your child crying.**
- Inform your dentist about any respiratory condition that makes breathing through the nose difficult for your child, as it may limit the effectiveness of nitrous oxide/oxygen
- Please inform us if your child has taken any medications the day of the appointment

REMINDERS:

DO NOT give your child anything to eat or drink 2 hours before the appointment.

Parent(s) will NOT be allowed in the room with the patient during treatment.

Parent's must remain in the building.

Please call 48hrs before appointment if you need to cancel, to avoid a \$50 cancellation fee.