



General Anesthesia for Children

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You may have heard of small children being put under anesthesia for dental care. Or you may have had this recommended for your own child. If so, you probably have some questions about the general anesthesia - why it is recommended, is it safe, and how much it might cost.

General anesthesia for children's dental care refers to a medical procedure in which a child is put into a state of deep sleep for the duration of a dental procedure. This is usually necessary for children who are too young or too anxious to undergo a dental procedure with local anesthesia or conscious sedation. General anesthesia is a safe and effective way to provide dental care for children and is commonly used for more complex procedures such as extractions, fillings, and root canals.

The first step in preparing for a general anesthetic is a preoperative evaluation. This may be done by the dentist, the anesthesiologist, or the child's medical doctor, who will examine the child's medical history and assess their current state of health. The dentist will also discuss the procedure with the child and their parents to ensure that they understand what will happen during the procedure and what they can expect afterwards.

Once the preoperative evaluation is complete, the child will be taken to the operating room where the general anesthesia will be administered. The anesthesiologist will use a combination of intravenous medications and inhaled gasses to put the child into a deep sleep. The child will be closely monitored throughout the procedure to ensure their safety and comfort.

One of the benefits of general anesthesia for children's dental care is that it eliminates pain and anxiety. Children are often very anxious about dental procedures, which can make the experience

even more painful. With general anesthesia, the child is completely unconscious and feels no pain or anxiety during the procedure. This allows the dentist to complete the procedure quickly and efficiently, reducing the amount of time the child is under anesthesia.

Another benefit of general anesthesia is that it allows the dentist to perform more complex procedures. For example, children who require multiple extractions or fillings may be too anxious to undergo the procedure with local anesthesia. With general anesthesia, the dentist can complete the entire procedure in one appointment, reducing the number of visits the child has to make. This also saves time for the child and their parents, as they do not have to schedule multiple appointments for the same procedure.

Despite the benefits of general anesthesia for children's dental care, there are also some risks associated with the procedure. One of the most common risks is nausea or vomiting after the procedure. This can occur when the child's body reacts negatively to the medications or gasses used during the procedure, and is usually easily managed by the anesthesiologist. The risk of any serious complication is very low.

Another risk of general anesthesia is that the child may experience some discomfort or pain after the procedure. This can be due to dental care or the anesthesia procedures. However, this discomfort is usually mild and can be easily managed with pain medications obtained over the counter or prescribed by the dentist or anesthesiologist.



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Finally, general anesthesia can be expensive and is not covered by all insurance plans. The cost of the procedure will vary depending on the complexity of the procedure, the length of time the child is under anesthesia, and the location of the procedure. Parents should discuss the cost of general anesthesia with their dentist and insurance provider before scheduling the procedure.

General anesthesia for children's dental care is a safe and effective way to provide dental care for children who are too young or too anxious to undergo a dental procedure with local anesthesia or conscious sedation. The procedure eliminates pain and anxiety and



allows the dentist to perform more complex procedures, saving time for the child and their parents. Despite the benefits of general anesthesia, there are also some risks associated with the procedure. Parents should discuss the benefits, risks, and costs of general anesthesia with their dentist and insurance provider before scheduling the procedure.

This article is for general information only and is not intended as medical or dental advice. Please seek medical and dental care with you or your child's medical or dental provider for specific questions