

Instructions for Care After Dentistry Under General Anesthesia

After returning home, the patient should rest for the first day and be carefully watched.

Getting Home: A responsible adult must accompany the patient and arrangements must be made to contact a responsible adult at time of discharge. Adults may not drive for 24 hours after surgery. A responsible adult must be with the patient until the next day. It is required by State Law to have children under the age of four to ride in a car seat.

Patients can react several ways after General Anesthesia. The most common ones are:

- Groggy and lethargic
- Hysterical and hyperactive
- Disoriented and confused
- Angry and combative
- Mellow and happy
- Cranky and grouchy

Each person is different so it is almost impossible to predict beforehand how the patient will act.

Nausea and vomiting: Patients may be nauseous and/or hungry. It takes about 2-4 hours for the anesthetic drugs to leave the system. During this time, they must be supervised by a responsible adult. If they are hungry, start with water and liquids until you have determined if they feel nauseous. A solid food immediately after surgery almost guarantees nausea and vomiting.

Temperature: Sometimes the patient may have a slight fever or minor pain after treatment. If so, Tylenol and Advil may be given according to the instructions on the bottle until the symptoms are gone.

Pain: Muscle aches and sore throat may occur similar to the flu. This is nothing to be alarmed about. It is very common after general anesthesia and will normally disappear in 24-36 hours. Drugs such as aspirin, ibuprofen, and acetaminophen will not sedate you and are acceptable if they can be tolerated.

Seek Advice:

- If vomiting occurs and persists beyond four (4) hours.
- If the temperature remains elevated beyond twelve (12) hours.
- If any other matter causes concern.

There is a dentist on call 24 hours a day. If you need assistance, please call (209) 952-9000 to speak with the on-call dentist.