

"Feeling No Pain"

Most dental procedures for children are quick and painless. For those procedures that take a while longer and would otherwise cause discomfort, we use a local anesthetic. It causes numbness so that your child will not feel pain, only pressure.

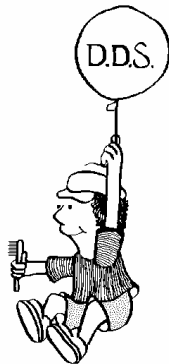
The "numbness" will usually wear off in 2 to 4 hours, but all children are different. Some may stay numb a while longer. It's a good idea to give your child a little ibuprofen or Tylenol before the numbness wears off...this will keep them comfortable when their mouth "wakes up".

For many children the feeling of numbness is new. Occasionally they may misinterpret this feeling and say that "it hurts". If this happens, please comfort your child by explaining that their lip or tooth is "sleeping" and that it will wake up in a little while. Your reassurance and composure is extremely important.

Children may accidentally bite their lip, tongue or inside of their cheek because they feel no pain while the anesthetic is still working. To prevent this, we place a roll of cotton, gently, but firmly between the front teeth. Please remind your child to close their teeth around the cotton roll first, and, then to close their lips...this will minimize any drooling. The cotton roll can be changed after you return home.

Please observe your child carefully while the anesthetic is in effect, because, if they bite themselves swelling and soreness may occur. These symptoms may persist for a week or more. Intermittent cold packs and ibuprofen will help alleviate this soreness. If the symptoms are severe or persistent, please call the office.

Thank you for entrusting us with the dental health care of your children.



Dr. Ewers & Staff
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