

## ORAL SEDATION

- Your child is given a mild sedative such as Valium or a valium-like drug.
- We choose this type of medication since its main affect is to *keep your child from remembering* the events of the appointment. Children do *not* usually sleep. They often cry while the procedures are being completed. There is no discomfort during the procedures, because a local anesthetic is used for pain control.
- The drug is administered in flavored syrup. We administer the medication one hour before the scheduled appointment to allow adequate time for it to take effect. Administration can be difficult for children that have a tough time taking medicine. Children must have nothing else to eat or drink for 6 hours before the appointment.
- Appointments are limited to approximately one hour (most effective time for the medication).
- Sedation is best when a child needs only one or two visits to complete their care.
- In general, oral sedation is best utilized for child aged 18 months to about 4 years. Sedation is less effective for older children due to weight and management limitations.
- Due to lack of cooperation, we are usually unable to obtain x-rays to complete our clinical diagnosis.



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