

Advice for Parents whose child is having General Anaesthetic

Community Dental Department
Community and Therapy Services
Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital Site

This leaflet has been designed to
give you important information
about your condition / procedure,
and to answer some common
queries that you may have.



Information for patients and visitors

Introduction

The aim of this leaflet is to provide you as carers or parents all the relevant information regarding anaesthesia for your child and answer some of the common concerns and queries.

Benefits of having General Anaesthetic

There are several reasons why your child may need to have their tooth taken out (a tooth extraction):

- The tooth is decayed or is infected
- Your child has broken or fractured their tooth in an accident
- Your child has severe gum disease
- Before your child has their tooth extracted it is important that you have discussed with your dentist how it might be replaced
- A pain free mouth will aid eating and normal everyday functioning

Risks of having General Anaesthetic

No procedure is without risk. There is a small risk your child could have a reaction to the anaesthetic. Approximately 1 in 20,000 children in good health receiving a GA might develop a serious reaction (allergy) to the anaesthetic. 1 child in 100 may be mildly allergic to the drugs given. Almost all children will have no problems at all following their treatment.

Alternatives to having General Anaesthetic

Antibiotics and painkillers can temporarily relieve symptoms such as swelling and pain

but they are not long term solutions. Having teeth removed may be the only way to permanently relieve your child's symptoms.

General Information

Your child will be given a general anaesthetic before the procedure; this means that they will be asleep throughout the tooth extraction. This has to be done in hospital but is almost always carried out as a day case, requiring no overnight stay.

There are a few important things you need to ensure that your child follows before coming into hospital.

Nothing to eat and drink-Fasting (Nil by Mouth)

These are the latest times that you should give your child anything to eat or drink:

- Before 7.30am – Your child can have their normal breakfast and fluids
- Before 11.30am – Your child can have a drink of water or dilute cordial but not a fizzy drink
- Before 11.30am and the appointment-Your child must not eat or drink anything

The General Anaesthetic will be given by gas. Your child will have a soft mask over their nose and mouth. Some children find the smell a little unpleasant and will need encouragement from you to keep still.

Once the anaesthetic has taken effect the dentist may use an instrument to loosen the tooth. When the tooth is wobbly the dentist will then remove it. After the dentist has removed the tooth, a piece of gauze will be placed over the area.

Your child may have some stitches in the gum to help it heal.



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If the tooth is damaged, there may not be enough tooth left for it to be removed by the above method, or it may crumble during the extraction. If this is the case, the dentist may need to make a few small cuts in the gum to reach the roots of the tooth to enable it to be removed, and then the area closed with stitches. Although this is highly unlikely.

Information on what will happen when the patient comes in to hospital

It is important that your child should be told they are coming into hospital and that they are going to have their tooth taken out. It is also helpful to give your child some basic information about what will happen when they are in hospital.

Some ideas of what to say...

- Explain that the procedure will help your child to get better
- Use simple words that your child understands
- Do encourage your child to talk about their forthcoming procedure and ask questions. Books, games and stories can help
- Tell your child about timing-how long will the procedure take, and what happens when they go home
- Please let us know in advance of any special requirements your child has and we will do whatever we can to help

If you have any additional queries prior to admission, please contact 01472 874111 ext 3523.

Information on what happens after surgery

Once the tooth has been removed and your child has recovered from the anaesthetic you will be advised when it is safe to take your child home. It is recommended that you do not use public transport to take your child home after the appointment.

Information on discharge and follow-up

Once home

Up to 24 hours after the extraction:

- Avoid mouth washing as this disturbs the blood clots that are part of the healing process
- Encourage your child to drink plenty but avoid hot drinks
- Give your child soft foods as the jaw may be stiff, avoid spicy foods
- Do not let your child disturb the surgical site with fingers or tongue
- If your child experiences pain please give children's paracetamol preparations (e.g. Calpol, Dispol) and Ibuprofen preparations (e.g. Nurofen) according to the instructions on the packaging
- Encourage your child to rest, they should not participate in any exercise
- Your child will probably feel tired. They should be supervised closely for 24 hours following the treatment

After 24 hours after the extraction

- Encourage your child to use a gentle mouth rinse with warm salt water as



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often as possible preferably every 2 hours

- Your child should start toothbrushing but avoid the surgical site
- Your child should be fit to return back to school 1-2 days after surgery
- Your child can now return to normal activities

What should I do if bleeding occurs?

Apply direct pressure to the area, by getting your child to bite on a clean rolled handkerchief, sitting your child in an upright position for 10 minutes. It is important not to let them rinse their mouth or lie down. If there are any stitches do not pull them.

When do I need to seek Medical Advice?

Most children experience no problems following tooth extraction. However please contact the Accident and Emergency Department on 01472 874111 ext 7615 immediately if your child develops any of the following:

- Bleeding that does not stop after applying pressure, or that lasts for more than half an hour
- Difficulty in breathing or swallowing
- Swelling in the face that lasts for more than 3 days after the operation
- A fever or high temperature
- Severe pain that is not relieved by painkillers
- If your child is frequently being sick

Contact details for Further Information

If you have any questions with relation to your child's procedure please do not hesitate to contact 01472 302443.

Concerns and Queries

If you have any concerns / queries about any of the services offered by the Trust, in the first instance, please speak to the person providing your care.

For Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital

Alternatively you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01472) 875403 or at the PALS office which is situated near the main entrance.

For Scunthorpe General Hospital

Alternatively you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01724) 290132 or at the PALS office which is situated on C Floor.

Alternatively you can email:

nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net

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