

Advice for Parents Whose Child is Having General Anaesthetic



This section is for the patient to make notes if they so wish:

Name:

Who to contact and how:

Notes:

**Diana, Princess of
Wales Hospital**
Scartho Road
Grimsby
DN33 2BA
03033 306999
www.nlg.nhs.uk

**Scunthorpe General
Hospital**
Cliff Gardens
Scunthorpe
DN15 7BH
03033 306999
www.nlg.nhs.uk

**Goole & District
Hospital**
Woodland Avenue
Goole
DN14 6RX
03033 306999
www.nlg.nhs.uk



Kindness · Courage · Respect

Information for patients

Introduction

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

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.

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
- 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 General Anaesthetic 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.

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 8am – Your child can eat and drink their normal breakfast and fluids
- After 8am – Your child can have a drink of water

Information for patients

- Between 8am and until 12 noon your child must not eat anything or drink anything other than plain water
- After 12 noon and up to the appointment – Your child must not eat or drink anything including chewing gum.

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.

You will be asked to wait in the waiting room whilst we carry out the procedure.

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 but this is not that common.

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 03033 304316

The adult attending with the child **MUST** be able to legally consent for the child. Please ask if you are unsure.

Information for patients

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 advisory that public transport is not used after the procedure and we would strongly encourage you to find alternative arrangements for your return journey home.

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 appropriate pain relief 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 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

Information for patients

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 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 03033 304316

Any Comments, Compliments, Concerns or Complaints

If you have any other concerns please talk to your nurse, therapist or doctor. Our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is available on 03033 306518 (Grimsby, Scunthorpe and Goole). You can also contact nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net

As a Trust we value equality of access to our information and services, therefore alternative formats are available on request at nlg-tr.interpreters@nhs.net

Information for patients

Alternative Languages

All of our leaflets are available to view in different languages via Browsealoud on our website at www.nlg.nhs.uk/patients/patient-leaflets/

Toate pliantele noastre sunt disponibile pentru a fi vizualizate în diferite limbi prin intermediul Browaloud pe site-ul nostru, la www.nlg.nhs.uk/patients/patient-leaflets/

Wszystkie nasze ulotki są dostępne do przeglądania w różnych językach za pośrednictwem Browsealoud na naszej stronie internetowej www.nlg.nhs.uk/patients/patient-leaflets/

Visus mūsų lankstinukus galite peržiūrėti įvairiomis kalbomis, naudodamiesi „Browsealoud“ mūsų svetainėje, adresu www.nlg.nhs.uk/patients/patient-leaflets/

Vse naše zloženke so na voljo za ogled v različnih jezikih prek Browaloud na našem spletnem mestu www.nlg.nhs.uk/patients/patient-leaflets/

Date of issue: April, 2021

Review Period: April, 2024

Author: Community Dental

IFP-538 v1.4

