



## **DENTAL SURGERY**

Your child is scheduled to have dental surgery. This handout was written to answer some of the questions most often asked by parents and children regarding this procedure and home care. If you have any questions after reading this handout, the outpatient nursing staff, the anesthesiologist or your child's doctor will answer them.

### **WHY DO WE HAVE TO BE AT THE HOSPITAL TWO HOURS BEFORE SURGERY?**

You and your child need to arrive two hours before surgery so we can perform all the necessary tests and procedures. These tests and procedures include:

1. **Arrival to the day surgery unit** - After you and your child arrive, you will check in with the outpatient surgery receptionist located on the second floor (enter at the main entrance of the hospital). Your child will be given a name bracelet. Please be sure to check the bracelet for the correct spelling of your child's name, birth date and doctor's name.
2. **Admitting procedure** - The admitting clerk will need your child's insurance information. If you have your child's social security number please bring it with you.
3. **Blood work** – A sample of blood may be taken so we can get a complete blood count (CBC). This will be done by sticking your child's finger or arm. You can stay with your child while this is done. If blood work has been taken on your child in the last seven days, please let us know. This might prevent your child from being stuck again. Urine pregnancy tests are done on all girls who are 10 years of age or older.
4. **Being seen by a nurse** - A nurse will admit your child to the unit. She will take your child's temperature, blood pressure, count his or her breathing and heart rate. She will weigh your child and have you dress him or her in hospital pajamas. Your child can leave on his or her underwear and socks for now, but may need to remove them later.
5. **Being seen by the anesthesiologist** - The anesthesiologist is the doctor who will put your child to sleep for surgery. You will meet your child's anesthesiologist before surgery. This doctor will answer any questions you have about the medication that will be used to put your child to sleep

and how long your child will be under anesthesia. Please feel free to ask the anesthesiologist any questions that you may have.

6. **Preoperative medicine** - Your child may receive medicine to drink before going to surgery. This medicine is usually given one half to one hour before surgery.

### **HOW LONG CAN I STAY WITH MY CHILD BEFORE SURGERY?**

You will be able to stay with your child until he or she goes into surgery. For safety reasons, we ask that only two adults stay at each child's bedside. One parent must stay in the child's room at all times while your child is in surgery.

### **HOW LONG WILL THE SURGERY TAKE?**

Your doctor will tell you about how long surgery will take. As soon as your child's dentist has finished the surgery, he or she will come out and talk to you. Make sure that you ask the doctor about instructions for home care such as diet, when the next appointment should be and when your child can return to school.

### **AFTER SURGERY, WHEN CAN I SEE MY CHILD?**

When the surgery is over, your child will be in the first stage recovery room for about 30 minutes to an hour or until your child is awake. Some children take longer to awake from the anesthesia than others. This is common. When your child is awake, he or she will be moved back to his or her room where you can stay until discharge.

### **DOES MY CHILD NEED TO HAVE AN IV?**

Yes, your child needs to have an IV for surgery. It will be used to give your child fluids and medication. Children under age eight usually have their IV started in surgery after they have fallen asleep from the mask anesthesia. Children over the age of eight will have their IV started in the outpatient surgery area. Every effort will be made to ensure your child's comfort during this procedure. The IV must stay in place until your child is able to drink fluids without vomiting.

### **WHEN CAN WE GO HOME?**

The nurse will be checking your child often (every 30 minutes) after surgery. She will be doing this to make sure your child is recovering well and to help decide when your child can be discharged from the hospital. Most children will stay in the outpatient area for at least one to two hours after surgery. Usually, your child can be discharged to home after he or she:

1. is fully awake
2. has stable vital signs. This means their temperature, heart rate, breathing rate and blood pressure are in their normal range.
3. is not having acute pain. We can give your child Tylenol®, if he or she is uncomfortable from the surgery
4. is not having excessive bleeding from the surgical site

**ARE THERE ANY SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS THAT WE WILL NEED TO FOLLOW AFTER GOING HOME?**

The nurse will give you specific instructions for home care. After you have read these instructions, the nurse will answer any questions you may have.

Your child can be carried or taken down to the front door in a wheelchair. It is preferred that one adult bring the car to the front entrance for your child's convenience.

The day after surgery, you and your child will receive a follow-up phone call from one of the nurses. Please let us know how everything went after surgery. Feel free to make any comments. We really are concerned about your child and how things are going.

If you have any questions after reading this handout, the outpatient nursing staff, the anesthesiologist or your child's doctor can answer them.

***The information contained in this handout is for general information only and should not be considered complete. For specific information on dental surgery, please ask your doctor.***

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