

### WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE USE OF ANESTHESIA?

Many of the treatments we perform in our office, such as crowns or other restorations, require that the patient receive a local anesthetic to ensure comfort and reduce anxiety about the visit. While we are extremely cautious with the amount of anesthesia that is given to young patients, it is very common to feel some numbness or slight discomfort for a short while after a procedure is complete.

Having a tingling feeling or itchiness of the tongue, lips or other areas is perfectly normal and should subside as soon as the anesthetic wears off completely.

### WHAT DO I NEED TO KEEP AN EYE ON TO ENSURE MY CHILD FULLY HEALS ?

While the anesthetic is wearing off, a child will sometimes bite their cheek, lips or tongue. It is important to discourage this, as it can create significant irritation and bruising. In the cases where a tooth has been extracted, these motions can cause bleeding and hinder speedy recovery of the gum tissue.



## RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY

### WHAT ABOUT SENSITIVITY?

Most sensitivity experienced after a dental procedure will subside on its own. However, if your child is uncomfortable, you can safely give them whatever over the counter medication you would for common fevers or other similar issues, such as Children's Tylenol or Children's Motrin. If you are unsure on the dosing or which medication would be best for your child, please call our office or your child's pediatrician

### WHAT ABOUT RESTORATIONS, SEALANTS OR DISCOMFORT AFTER CLEANING?

Dental restorations (commonly known as fillings) are a fairly routine procedure and the healing time tends to be quick. Your child should be aware of any numbness and should wait for it to wear off completely before eating any foods that require chewing. Smoothies, milk shakes and yogurt are some examples of foods that are safe to consume while still feeling numbness or tingling.

A new restoration can change the way your teeth fit together, therefore it is very common to have your tongue, cheeks and tongue "feel different" and it may take a short period of adjustment to be "normal". This usually takes no more than 2-3 days.

When your child has sealants placed on their teeth, they can sometimes report sensitivity in the areas where they were applied. This is a completely normal occurrence and not cause for concern. Sealant sensitivity should go away within 2-3 days.

A routine cleaning can cause your gums to bleed or slight swelling that can cause discomfort for one or two days. If you are experiencing this, you can try rinsing twice daily with warm water salt rinse in addition to maintaining your normal brushing and flossing regimen. You can also take Children's Tylenol or Children's Motrin for relief as directed by our office or your pediatrician.

**As always, if you have questions or concerns, please call our office and we will help! 816-741-5311**