

What to Do For Your Child after Local Anesthetic

Local anesthetic numbs the tissues of the lips and cheeks of the area involved and sometimes the tongue. Children usually do not understand the effects of this local anesthetic and have the tendency to chew or suck the affected area, occasionally causing laceration and swelling of the tissues. Although this may not be a serious thing, it can be very uncomfortable.

PLEASE watch your child very closely until the numbness disappears. Lip or cheek bite injuries usually occur shortly after leaving the office.

We recommend this book in preparation for a dental appointment during which local anesthesia will be used.

Going to the Dentist by Anne Civardi



Prevention:

After any dental work where your child has been anesthetized (numbed), your child might want to scratch his/her face because there is a tingling sensation as the anesthetic is wearing off. Please watch that your child does not scratch or bite his/her cheek, lip, or tongue. Your child feels his/her face and lips differently, and he/she may not be able to understand that the area is numbed.

The anesthetic will last another 1-2 hours after we have finished working with your child.

NO solid food or snacks for several hours as your child may bite or chew his/her cheek, lip, or tongue and will not feel the injury

Offer foods such as soup, Jell-O, ice cream, yogurt, juice, milk, milk shakes, or fruit shakes to maintain a soft diet ... avoid acidic foods



Treatment:

If your child has bitten his/her cheek, lip, or tongue, there will be swelling which may worsen over the next 2-3 days. A yellowish, white plaque (soft scab) will develop. This is part of the healing process. The lesion will heal over the next 10-14 days. If your child complains of pain, you may give children's Tylenol or Ibuprofen (Advil) and apply Orabase to the area.