



Instructions Following Local Anesthesia

As part of today's treatment, your child received an injection of local anesthetic (numbing medicine). The anesthesia (numbness) will typically last 1 ½ to 2 hours. During this time, it is essential that you **watch your child carefully** to prevent him/her from chewing, scratching, or vigorously rubbing the numb area. Remind him/her not to bite on the numb tongue, cheek, or lip. Your child should avoid eating on the affected side until the numbness has worn off.

What to do if your child injures him/herself during the numbness:

If your child bites his/her lip, tongue, or cheek, a traumatic injury will result. Any bleeding that occurs may be controlled with firm pressure. The chewed area may appear swollen, ulcerated, and white in color. If the face becomes swollen, ice may be placed. This should not be confused with infection and does not require antibiotics. It usually heals uneventfully in 7-10 days. During this time, you may give your child Tylenol or Motrin for any discomfort they may experience from this injury.