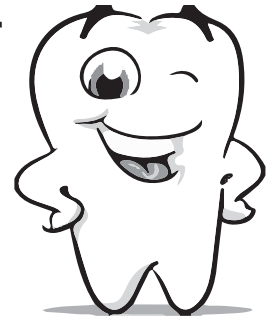


# Your Child's General Anaesthetic for Dental Treatment



Wolverhampton Special Care Dental Service

Information for parents and guardians of children

Date of appointment: ..... Time of appointment: .....

**Location A23: Paediatric Surgery Ward, Telephone 01902 307999 extension 81730 (open between 7:00am to 7:30pm) OR Location A21: General Paediatric Ward, Telephone 01902 695041 (open 24 hours)**

This booklet explains what to expect when your child has a general anaesthetic for dental treatment.

Appointment time allows for:

- Medical history and assessment by the dentist and anaesthetist
- Consent
- Anaesthetic magic cream to be applied if required

**The child must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian.**

## Introduction

Simple tooth removal can often be carried out at your child's Dental Practice using injections to numb the child's mouth. For some children however, especially the very young, a general anaesthetic in hospital may be the only option.

## What is general anaesthetic?

General anaesthesia is a state of controlled unconsciousness during which your child feels nothing.

Anaesthetics are the drugs (gases and injections) that are used to induce (start) and maintain anaesthesia.

When the operation is finished, the anaesthetic is stopped and your child regains consciousness ('wakes up').

## Who gives the anaesthetic?

Anaesthetics are only given by anaesthetists. They are doctors with specialist training and are experts at looking after patients when they are anaesthetised. The anaesthetist stays with your child all the time during the operation and carefully monitors him or her.

**The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.**

- **Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available**
- **If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111**
- **Keep the environment clean and tidy**
- **Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.**

## How is consent gained?

We must seek your consent for any procedure or treatment beforehand. Your doctor child's / dentist will explain the risks, benefits and alternatives where relevant before they ask for your consent. If you are unsure about any aspect of the procedure or treatment proposed please do not hesitate to ask for more information.

## What are the benefits of general anaesthetic?

General anaesthetic ensures that your child is unconscious and free of pain during an operation or procedure.

## How safe is general anaesthesia for dental treatment and what are the risks?

With modern anaesthesia, serious problems are uncommon. Risk cannot be removed completely but when a patient is fit and healthy and the operation is a small one, as many dental operations are, the risk of a life-threatening problem is about 1 in 100,000. This risk is considerably less than that of your child being seriously injured in a road accident.

## My child has learning disabilities or has special medical problems. Are there any extra risks with the anaesthetic?

Yes, there may be a small increase in risk but this risk should be outweighed by the benefits of your child's treatment. Each child is different and will be carefully assessed before their operation so that their treatment can be tailored to their needs.

Sometimes children with serious medical problems who need a general anaesthetic for dental treatment need to be admitted to hospital rather than go home the same day. This allows full preparation for their operation and the anaesthetic.

## Why does my child have to go to hospital to have general anaesthetic?

Government regulations state that general anaesthesia for dental treatment may only be given in hospital where all the appropriate safety facilities are available. General anaesthetics cannot be given at your child's Dental Practice.

## Are there any alternatives to general anaesthetic?

The choice about which treatment is best for your child will be made together with your doctor / dentist. This will be based on the risks and benefits of the treatment and your child's individual circumstances. The doctor / dentist will have explained the different treatment options to your child and what will happen if you decide not to have any treatment at all.

## What should I tell my child about the anaesthetic?

This will depend on the age of your child and how much you judge they can understand.

It may be enough to explain that some of their teeth are poorly and need to be removed before they cause pain. You can explain that the doctor will give them some medicine which will make them go to sleep while their teeth are removed. Afterwards they will wake up.

## What should I do if my child is unwell?

If your child has a cough, cold or a runny nose or is otherwise unwell for any other reason it may not be possible to go ahead with the anaesthetic and operation.

Please contact for advice before attending for the appointment:

**A23: Paediatric Surgery Ward, Telephone 01902 307999 extension 81730 (open between 7:00am to 7:30pm)**

**OR**

**A21: General Paediatric Ward, Telephone 01902 695041 (open 24 hours).**

## Why is it important for my child not to eat or drink before the anaesthetic? ('nil by mouth')

If there is food or liquid in your child's stomach during the anaesthetic, it could come up into the back of the throat and then go into his or her lungs. This would cause choking, or serious damage to the lungs, and so is very dangerous.

'Nil by Mouth' – You will be advised during your child's pre-operative appointment. Normally your child should be nil by mouth 7 hours before operation (nil by mouth after midnight for a morning appointment or nil by mouth after 7:30 am for an afternoon appointment).

**Please do not let your child have sweets, mints or chewing gum either as these fill the stomach with saliva and increase the risk of vomiting, so the operation will have to be cancelled for that day.**

## What should I do on the morning of my child's operation?

Ring A21 – General Paediatric Ward (Telephone number: 01902 695041) at 6:30am to confirm a bed, observe fasting times, and any other necessary advice.

## How will my child be given the anaesthetic?

Your child can either have:

- Anaesthetic gas to breathe through a face-mask, or mouthpiece to blow into
- An injection through a cannula. (A cannula is a thin plastic tube placed, using a needle, into a vein on the back of the hand or their arm). Once the cannula is in place, the needle is removed

## What is 'Magic' cream?

'Magic' cream is a local anaesthetic cream that can be put on the hand or arm before the injection so that it does not hurt. It works well for 9 out of 10 children when applied at least 30 minutes before injections.

## Can I choose how the anaesthetic is given?

The final decision is usually made by the anaesthetist, after discussing the options with you and your child. Nothing will happen unless you understand and agree with what has been planned.

Please tell the anaesthetist if your child has had an anaesthetic before and would like to 'go to sleep' in the same way, or alternatively, has previously had an unpleasant experience.

## Can I stay with my child while the anaesthetic is given?

We encourage a parent, adult relative or guardian to stay with the child. Your child will usually become unconscious on the operating trolley. If your child is unhappy to leave you, it is usually possible to start the anaesthetic with your child on your lap and then transfer him or her to the operating table when unconscious.

Once your child is unconscious you will be asked to go back to the Paediatric Ward to wait.

## How long will my child be unconscious for?

- This will depend on the length of the operation
- Simple removal of teeth only takes one or two minutes
- Recovery will occur quickly, usually within five minutes

If the operation takes longer, then your child will receive more anaesthetic and recovery will take a little longer.

## Can I be there when my child regains consciousness?

Once the operation is completed your child will be taken to the recovery area. A trained nurse or operating department practitioner will look after your child until he or she is responding to the nurses voice. Then your child will be brought back to you on the Paediatric Ward.

## What will my child feel like?

When your child first wakes up he or she is likely to be a bit confused and may cry for a short time. He or she may feel sore and as soon as he or she can drink, a pain relieving medicine such as paracetamol will be given.

## How soon will I be able to take my child home?

You will be in hospital for approximately 4 hours to allow for the assessment, dental extractions / treatment and full recovery of your child to discharge.

## Can I take my child home on the bus after treatment?

No, some children feel sick or may be sick on the journey home. You will need your own transport or taxi.

## Will my child have any after-effects?

It is common for children to:

- Feel dizzy and a bit sick for a few hours
- Be sick occasionally, especially if they have swallowed a little blood
- Have some pain or discomfort for a few hours

You can help by giving your child pain relieving medicine regularly as prescribed rather than waiting for him or her to complain.

## Can I give my child anything to eat or drink when we go home?

Yes you can. The nurse will give you written instructions about this.

## Should I keep my child away from school?

You will have to be guided by how your child feels. Some children do not feel quite right the following day and may need to stay off school.

Your dentist will advise you about when your child can safely take part in exercises or sports.

If you have any concerns about your child when you get home, you should contact:

**A23: Paediatric Surgery Ward, Telephone 01902 307999 extension 81730 (open between 7:00am to 7:30pm)**

**OR**

**A21: General Paediatric Ward, Telephone 01902 695041 (open 24 hours).**

## Questions you may like to ask your anaesthetist

- Who will give my child's anaesthetic?
- Is this the only type of anaesthetic possible for dental treatment?
- Have you often used this type of anaesthetic?
- What are the risks of this type of anaesthetic?
- Does my child have any special risks?
- How will my child feel afterwards?

## References

- <http://www.rcoa.ac.uk/childrensinfo>

## English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

## Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

## Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

## Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

## Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

## Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。