

Dental Treatment under General Anaesthetic: Advice after your Operation

Information for parents and carers

This leaflet contains useful information for parents and carers whose child has had dental treatment under general anaesthetic.

Going home

Children who have had dental treatment such as fillings or extractions may be fit to go home a few hours after the anaesthetic. Occasionally, however, we may feel it is necessary for your child to stay in hospital overnight. If this is necessary we will explain the reasons why.

Eating and drinking

Your child will be able to have drinks and soft foods later on the same day. Sometimes children feel a bit sick following an anaesthetic. This is quite common so please don't worry. If your child continues to vomit we will advise that s/he stays in hospital overnight.

Pain

Your child will probably have some discomfort after the operation. Paracetamol may be given regularly following the instructions on the bottle. You may need to continue this treatment for a few days.

The wound site

To prevent bleeding following tooth extraction, it is important to discourage your child from sucking the sockets or placing fingers or hard objects in the mouth.

Some oozing from the sockets is common, however, if bleeding continues, roll up a clean damp handkerchief and place this over the socket. Direct pressure should be applied (e.g. biting) for 15-20 minutes.

Cleaning the teeth

Your child's teeth should be cleaned as normal. Soften the toothbrush under the warm tap to make brushing easier.

Questions and problems

If you are unsure of anything to do with your child's condition please speak to a member of staff before you take your child home.

If you have any problems in the first few days at home please contact the emergency service at the Edinburgh Dental Institute –

Tel. **0131 536 4449** (or 0131 536 1129), from 9am to 4:30pm on weekdays.

If you encounter issues outwith these hours- please phone **NHS 24** on **111** for advice.

If there are any urgent issues (for example uncontrolled bleeding, fever, vomiting) please take your child directly to the Accident and Emergency Department at The Royal Hospital for Children and Young People

Your GP and dentist will be informed about your child's operation directly by letter.