



Our doctors are not only specialists in dealing with problems of the mouth, teeth and jaws, but also are experienced in dealing with the control of pain and anxiety. Oral and maxillofacial surgeons have the equivalent of one year of advanced training in hospital anesthesiology, plus a continuing three to four year experience in outpatient sedation and general anesthesia for adults and children, in order to become competent in anesthesia techniques, patient monitoring and management of complications and emergencies.

Oral and maxillofacial surgery is proud of its outstanding safety record for office anesthesia. The complication rate is actually lower than for in-hospital anesthesia. The delivery of anesthesia by oral and maxillofacial surgeons is regulated by both national and state guidelines and regulations.

In California, only properly trained, experienced doctors are permitted to administer intravenous sedation and general anesthesia. They are required to pass a competency exam, and must be certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support and the office must have all necessary monitors, drugs and equipment to deliver safe anesthesia and manage any complications.

During anesthesia in the office, our patients are monitored just as they would be in a hospital operating room. Our staff is trained to support the doctor during anesthesia and should complications occur. They also assist in monitoring the patient during the recovery period. Our patients are kept in the recovery area until fully awake and ready to walk out the door. We use intravenous sedation and general anesthesia techniques that were developed to ensure safe and

comfortable office-based procedures. The technique is very similar to what is used for endoscopy, colonoscopy, minor cosmetic procedures and biopsies.

During the consultation visit, the doctor evaluates the patient's medical history and current health. Only patients who are healthy or have minimal health risk receive sedation or general anesthesia in the office. For those at increased risk, treatment in the hospital may be more appropriate. The anesthetic options for your surgery will be discussed at the time of consultation. The doctor will explain the differences between the types of anesthesia, and answer all of your questions and concerns.

Many patients and their families have concerns regarding the safety of anesthesia in the office. This is especially true after hearing stories of anesthetic complications on television and in print. Many of these tragic outcomes are the result of inadequately-trained doctors and staffs performing sedation techniques without proper monitoring or knowledge in the management of complications. Although no procedure or anesthetic is without risk, conscious sedation and general anesthesia administered by oral and maxillofacial surgeons has a superior safety record.

It is our goal to make your experience with our office as stress-free and easy as possible. This includes not only the recovery period after surgery, but especially the time during surgery. Simple, short procedures may be easily accomplished with local anesthesia (numbing) only. When the procedure is more complex or extensive, then intravenous sedation or general anesthesia may be recommended by the doctor in order to make the procedure more comfortable for you.

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ORAL AND  
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