



What Parents or Guardians need to know about PROCEDURAL SEDATION

Your child must have a test that requires the use of medicine. The medicines will make your child sleepy and treat or prevent pain from the test. The use of these medicines is called "sedation". The following

information will help you understand:

- Why your child needs sedation
- What sedation is, along with the risks and benefits
- What to do to prepare your child for the test



Please read the entire handout ahead of time. Before the test, the doctor will talk with you, and check your child. If you have any questions or do not understand, please be sure to ask the doctor or nurse to explain.



WHAT IS SEDATION?

Sedation: Your child is quiet, relaxed, and not scared of what is happening around him. He/she is awake and able to respond when asked to do something.

Deep sedation: Your child appears asleep, does not respond to talking, and is able to breathe on his/her own.

General anesthesia: Your child appears to be in a deep sleep, does not respond to talking, and may not be able to breathe on his/her own. A breathing tube may be placed in your child's windpipe so the doctor can control his/her breathing.

WHY IS SEDATION NEEDED?

Sedation may be needed for the following reasons.

- Your child may need a test (such as an X-ray) that requires him/her to stay perfectly still
- Your child may need a test that hurts and will need medicine to prevent or treat pain and help your child forget what happened. Sometimes more than one medicine may be used.



Patient Identification

The Medical Center of Central Georgia
Children's Hospital
Infant/Pediatric Sedation Teaching tool
G7287 01/02 09/03 2 pt.
White...chart Yellow...patient

WHAT WILL HAPPEN BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER SEDATION?

Before sedation, your child must not eat or drink for a period of time. This is so that the stomach is empty, and your child is not placed in danger of vomiting and choking while asleep. **Review the chart below to know how long to keep your child without food or drink before the test.** If your child eats or drinks too near to the time of the test, it may be cancelled.

GUIDELINES: TIME FOR WHICH YOUR CHILD MUST NOT EAT OR DRINK		
Age	May have milk or solids until this many hours before the test	*May have clear liquids until this many hours before the test.
Less than 6 months	4	2
6 - 36 months	6	3
More than 36 months	8	3

*Any amount of clear liquids may and should be offered up until the time you need to stop. Clear liquids include water, clear apple juice or grape juice, flat Sprite®, or ginger ale.

During the test a pediatric intensive care doctor and a nurse will be with your child. Your child will be watched very closely.

- His/her heart rate and breathing will be checked throughout the test.
- Your child will need an IV (needle) to get medications. We can use a "magic cream" on the skin 30 to 60 minutes before the test that helps lessen the pain of the needle stick.

After sedation, we will continue to watch your child closely until he/she is awake and getting back to normal. When your child wakes up, he/she may be nervous and cry for a brief time. Expect your child to be wobbly and have poor balance during the rest of the day of sedation. Do not allow your child to take part in activities such as bike riding or tree climbing until the next day.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OR SIDE EFFECTS?

There may be a chance your child will have certain side effects or problems. We are always prepared to handle these problems to keep your child safe.

- All medications used for deep sedation can slow down or stop breathing. Some can lower the blood pressure.
- Choking spasm that blocks the breathing airway. (Placement of a breathing tube may be needed.)
- Allergic reaction to a medication. (Allergic reactions to these medications are not common.)
- Some medications can make the heart beat faster or cause a flushed appearance (redness) to the face and neck.

In spite of these risks, sedation for tests is very safe for your child. You will be provided with a list of the medications used and the name of the doctor who sedated your child and how to reach someone with questions.

I have read and understand the information provided. Any questions have been answered

signature



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witness signature

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