



CHILDREN'S Dental Specialists

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POST LOCAL ANESTHESIA INSTRUCTIONS

Self-induced soft tissue trauma is an unfortunate complication resulting from a local anesthetic which is used for numbing the mouth (putting the teeth to sleep). It is very common among children.

Local anesthetics not only make your child's tooth numb (fall asleep) but does the same to the surrounding gums, tongue, and lips. Because the children feel the sensation of being numb, when they bite the pain reflex that prevents them from biting too hard is temporarily lost which causes them to keep biting forcefully. Due to the way the lower jaw is numbed, there is a wider area that is affected leading to a greater area of trauma.

Most cheek and lip biting look terrible and most likely will result in severe soreness and swelling of the area.

The soreness and swelling is self-limiting and heals without complication. If your child is in pain, give the proper amount of Tylenol Elixir or Motrin as needed. Bleeding and infection may also be an outcome and in this case, an antibiotic would be prescribed.

Caregivers please advise your child:

- ❖ DO NOT BITE, CHEW, OR SUCK on lips/cheeks
- ❖ Nothing to eat or drink for 2 hours
- ❖ Do not ingest hot substances within 2 hours
- ❖ Place a cotton roll in the mucobuccal fold or in between the teeth which helps prevent injury
- ❖ Lubricate lip with petroleum jelly, this helps prevent drying of the lips

If severe pain persists after 2 days and swelling persists after 5 days, please feel free to contact our office at the following phone number:

(248) 528 - 0500