



Caring for Children Following Treatment Under General Anaesthesia

Rest

It is very important to rest for the first few days following surgery. Your child should not be playing outdoors such as running, jumping and other vigorous exercises as these activities can promote bleeding.

Bleeding

Blood stained saliva is normal for the first day or two after surgery. It is advisable for the child not to spit or suck on straws and/or dummies as this can disturb the protective blood clot formed in the area after surgery. Excessive bleeding can be controlled by placing a clean handkerchief or small gauze directly over the bleeding site, and biting firmly for 30 minutes. Applying an ice pack to the cheek can also help.

Pain

Panadol syrup or tablets can be taken every 4-6 hours for the first 24 hours. If pain persists, contact your local doctor.



Panadol is next due at
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Swelling

Depending on the extent of the operation, there can be some facial swelling and bruising. Jaw stiffness and difficulty in opening the mouth can sometimes happen.

Mouthcare

Keeping the mouth clean is very important as it helps prevent infection. Frequent mouthwashes with 1 teaspoon of salt mixed in a glass of warm water, is advisable. If your child is too young to attend to mouthwashes, drinking lots of water will keep their mouth clean. When brushing their teeth, avoid the wound until it has healed.

Diet

Drinks lots of water, cordial and glucose drinks. Warm, pureed soup and jelly is suitable following the surgery. Gradually increase to a soft diet and then a normal diet as tolerated.

General Anaesthesia

A sore throat, difficulty swallowing, muscle pain and vomiting are quite common after a general anaesthetic. If vomiting persists, contact your local doctor or nearest hospital Emergency Department.

Warning

For the next 24 hours observe your child for any bleeding or abnormal breathing. Take your child to your local doctor or Emergency Department immediately if breathing difficulties occur.

Problems

If you have any concerns, please contact the Day Surgery Unit on **9341 1258** or **9341 1257** from 7:00am to 7:00pm. Otherwise, go to your nearest hospital Emergency Department or the Royal Dental Hospital Emergency Department on the 1st floor which is open from 8:00am to 9:15pm.

