



Local Anesthetic Consent Form

We strive to make dental care as comfortable as possible. One of the strategies we employ is the use of dental anesthetics (such as lidocaine, mepivacaine, articaine). Although the use of local anesthetics is a safe, well-established procedure to control pain, adverse reactions can occur. These reactions include, but are not limited to, the following items:

1. Rapid heartbeat – The anesthetic may make your heart race for a few minutes after the anesthetic is administered; it usually is short lived. If you have high blood pressure, please let Dr. Johnson know.
2. Fainting – can be associated with a rapid pulse, usually associated with fear.
3. Hyperventilation – This is characterized by rapid breathing, lightheadedness, tingling in the hands, and possible tightness in the chest. It is also usually associated with fear.
4. Allergic Reactions – These are extremely rare with the anesthetics we use. They can be characterized by swelling, redness, or anaphylactic reactions that involve trouble with breathing. If you have experienced an adverse reaction to an anesthetic before, please let us know.
5. Toxicity Reactions – These occur from overdose or rapid absorption of the anesthetic into your blood stream. We will never administer more anesthetic than is recommended for your body size, but, it is important to understand that everyone has a different tolerance to medications.

Complications that can arise from the use of a local anesthetic include:

1. Numbness to additional areas of the face can occur due to variations in nerve anatomy. These areas will start to feel normal after the anesthetic wears off, usually in 1 to 4 hours.
2. Paresthesia can occur when a nerve is traumatized during the administration of anesthetic. This may result in a lingering feeling of numbness or tingling, burning, or pain. Although rare, it most often occurs when numbing the lower back teeth. In most cases, the symptoms of paresthesia gradually diminish with time, but, in some rare cases they may be permanent. Unfortunately, the only alternative to avoid this risk is to have the dental work completed without anesthetic (most people accept the risk!). If you experience symptoms of paresthesia after dental work, please inform us as soon as possible because early treatment is essential for certain cases of paresthesia.

3. A “shocking” sensation can occur when the anesthetic is administered close to the nerve, it is usually short lived.
4. Hematoma – This is characterized by blood pooling outside of the blood vessels and can have the appearance of a swollen bruise. It occurs when a blood vessel is punctured during the procedure. They may be visible for up to two weeks, but will usually resolve on their own.
5. Trauma to the lips & cheeks while the anesthetized tissue is numb.
6. Jaw pain can result from the muscles around the area of the anesthetic or from holding your mouth open for an extended period of time during dental work.

Please let us know if you have had any type of allergic or adverse reaction to dental anesthetics in the past. Fortunately, complications related to the use of dental anesthetics are rare.

I consent to the use of dental anesthetics whenever Dr. Clark Johnson recommends it for dental treatment. I understand that I can certainly request not to use anesthetic for any procedure.

Patient or Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

5380-D Highway 70 West, Morehead City, NC 28557

252-247-0500 office, 252-247-0501 fax

www.johnsonfamilydentistry.net