

WALTER K. MURPHY, D.D.S

ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

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ANESTHESIA IN THE ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY OFFICE

Ambulatory (or outpatient) anesthesia is safe, convenient, and cost effective. Oral and maxillofacial surgeons have an established history of providing quality anesthesia care in the office setting. Recent studies indicate that the mortality rate is 1:600,000-750,000 for deep sedation/general anesthesia administered by the dental surgeon also performing the surgical procedure. To put this in perspective, the estimated risk of mortality/morbidity during general anesthesia administered for a tonsillectomy is 1:40,000.

Oral and maxillofacial surgery is a specialty of dentistry. An oral and maxillofacial surgeon is a dentist who has gone on to complete a minimum of four years of postdoctoral education and surgical residency training. Oral and maxillofacial surgeons are thoroughly trained in the proper administration of anesthetic agents. Your oral and maxillofacial surgeon is knowledgeable in pain and anxiety control and possesses extensive clinical experience in all anesthetic techniques including general anesthesia, intravenous (IV) sedation, and local anesthesia.

General anesthesia, IV sedation, or local anesthesia, as well as virtually all drugs, medications, and treatments carry an inherent risk. Oral and maxillofacial surgeons have been in the forefront to promote regulations and parameters of care for anesthesia delivery to help reduce this risk to a minimum. Ongoing voluntary self-regulation of the specialty and its member oral and maxillofacial surgeons has helped reduce this risk to patients even further.

No one should refrain from obtaining needed oral health care out of fear of anesthesia. It is important to realize that there is very little risk of anesthesia complications on the oral and maxillofacial surgery office that follows established guidelines.

This office follows all guidelines and parameters of care set forth by the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. If you have any questions about anesthesia, please discuss them with Dr. Murphy. He will be happy to explain the procedures followed by our office.