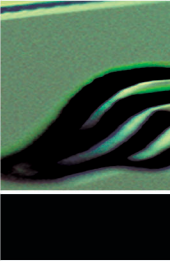




# The Oral Surgery Corner



EDUCATION &  
INSIGHT



## It's a matter of trust...

*by John H. Muse, D.D.S. • Diplomate, American Board Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery*

**As dentists we all want to deliver the best possible care to our patients in a safe, friendly, efficient, and pain free environment.** Dentistry was once not so easy. I clearly remember as a child choosing "the drill" over "the shot", because the local anesthesia was so intimidating and painful. Fortunately, for our patients today we are all highly proficient in the delivery of local anesthesia, which makes dentistry a fairly routine and easy experience for most of our patients. Additionally, we have the ability to supplement our local anesthesia efforts with nitrous oxide and oral sedatives if necessary.

There are many minor oral surgery procedures, such as simple extractions and small biopsies, that can be accomplished very nicely under local anesthesia alone. Even implants, depending upon the site and the patient, can often be placed with just local anesthesia.

However, there are also many oral surgery procedures that can challenge the physical and psychological abilities of our patients and local anesthesia is not enough. That is why oral surgeons have always been instrumental in developing and providing outpatient conscious sedation and general anesthesia techniques. It is a responsibility that our specialty takes very seriously in terms of anesthesia training during the residency program and our board examination process. But board certification alone does not allow an oral surgeon to provide advanced levels of anesthesia to patients. It is mandatory to maintain certification in Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advance Cardiac Life Support (ACLS). Additionally, the office must pass an on site evaluation by the Georgia Board of Dentistry to qualify for the delivery of conscious sedation and general anesthesia. The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons also provides certification in anesthesia assisting, which is very rigorous and

difficult to pass. I am proud to say that all my assistants, as well as my nurse, have achieved this certification or are in the process of taking the examination.

**When you refer a patient to Georgia Oral Surgery you are entrusting us to provide the very best outcome for your patients.** You should expect your patients to be treated in a compassionate, safe, and pain free environment. Many factors come into play when recommending a particular anesthetic to a patient: the surgical procedure required, the patient's past experience and desires, their medical history, and my past experience in providing similar procedures for the same age patient. The anesthesia recommendation is customized for each patient. It certainly is not a "one size fits all" approach. Since I practiced many years as a general dentist prior to becoming an oral surgeon, I think I have a very good understanding and appreciation for what types of oral surgery procedures people can tolerate under local anesthesia alone and when conscious sedation or general anesthesia is indicated.

**As you know, I greatly appreciate the trust you place in me in choosing the correct surgical and anesthesia options for your patients. What guides me in all my surgical and anesthetic recommendations is that I try very hard to treat everyone as though they were members of my family.** So how I would treat my 10 year old daughter, my wife, or my elderly relatives is how I promise to treat your patients of a similar age.

If you ever have any questions regarding my recommendations for your patients please call me so we can discuss your concerns. My office is always open to you and your staff for observation of our surgical or anesthesia procedures and we would love for you to visit.



**Thanks as always for supporting our practice and for the trust and confidence you place in us in providing the very best oral surgery care for your patients.**