

## **What Should Children Expect After A Filling Appointment**

Children should be watched carefully to make sure they don't bite their lips, cheeks or gums before the numbness wears off. The numbness should only last a few hours. Due to the strange feeling of the anesthetic, many children will chew the inside of their lips, cheeks, or tongue which can cause serious damage.

If a child develops lip or cheek swelling after a filling, it is almost always due to trauma from the child biting his/her lip. Please give them Motrin for kids as indicated for their weight and age.

Allergic reactions to anesthetic are very uncommon and would present with a rash, weezing, difficulty breathing and swelling that extends beyond the area where the filling was placed. In addition, an allergic reaction would most likely occur in the office, not at home. Although unlikely, if these symptoms occur, please take your child to the ER immediately.

- Children should brush and floss around the new fillings as they normally would.
- Following a procedure in which the lip or cheek are numb, be careful not to chew or eat on the affected side. Avoid hard crunchy foods at the next meal.
- Thermal sensitivity is not uncommon if the cavity or preparation was deep, close to the nerve. If the tooth is responding and healing, sensitivity only lasts for a short time after the cold is introduced. Gradually over time the thermal sensitivity decreases, as the tooth develops a healed, protective layer.
- Pain might be experienced due to muscle tightness or tenderness following operative procedures, especially at the site of the injection.

The finished restoration may be contoured slightly different and have a different texture than the original tooth. The child might complain that they feel something is stuck on their teeth. The tongue usually magnifies this small difference, but they will become accustomed to this in a few days

**Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about the procedure.**

*– Dr. Chahine, DMD, FAGD, Dr. Dugas, DDS & Associates*