

Results *in* Review

A newsletter of the Blende Dental Group • Winter 2006

General Anesthesia is the Right Choice for the Right Patients

The Blende Dental Group performs more definitive full mouth rehabilitation under general anesthesia than any other practice in the country. Understandably the most common question we hear from other dental and medical professionals is, "Why general anesthesia?" Though general anesthesia has been used for decades for other types of surgery, from open heart surgery to hip replacements to simpler cosmetic procedures, medical professionals and lay people are not accustomed to the idea of dentistry *requiring* the use of general anesthesia. Yet there are patients and circumstances that demand the use of general anesthesia. These patients cannot be safely treated any other way.

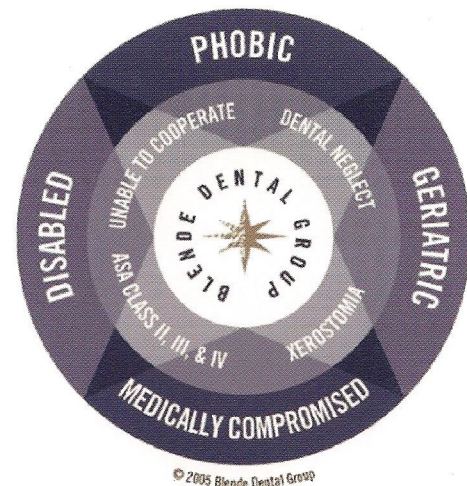
Why General Anesthesia?

General anesthetics are crucial for certain patients because they produce an unconscious state. In this state a person is:

- unaware of what is happening • pain-free • immobile
- free from any memory of the period of time during which he or she is anesthetized

General Anesthesia is the most uniformly dependable of all the sedation modalities, because medication can be accurately dosed and the patient's response can be appropriately monitored. It can be a combination of injected or inhaled sedation. The anesthesiologist is always present, and uses monitoring devices and observation to ensure complete control of the patient's airway, breathing, and circulation.

The Blende Dental Group is a private practice dedicated to serving the phobic, disabled and medically compromised communities by providing full-mouth rehabilitation under general anesthesia and I.V. sedation. This underserved population is the core of our practice.



Patients who are treated by The Blende Dental Group

What Can We Do for You?

To help you understand the services we can offer, the Blende Dental Group will share case studies and results in this periodic newsletter. In each issue, we'll show you:

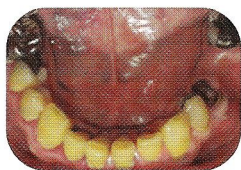
- the collaborative approach we forge with referring dentists nationwide
- the care we take with each patient
- the elegant results we are committed to delivering
- the way in which patients return to their referring dentists for routine care.

Results *in* Review

The following patient groups are often most safely treated while unconscious:



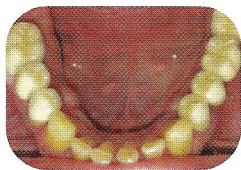
Phobic Severe anxiety may prevent a patient from being able to cooperate (patient may shake, gag, pull away, not allow dentist near mouth at all) These patients may require extensive work as they may have avoided receiving care for many years. General anesthesia ensures that we complete their treatment since these patients often find it difficult to even call a dental office, let alone muster the courage for multiple appointments. General anesthesia provides a way for these patients to have all their work done in just one visit.



Geriatric Older adults with severe periodontal disease are often good candidates for treatment with more sedating forms of anesthesia. Particularly in cases of fast moving xerostomia (dry mouth), brought on by medications older adults take, dentists sometimes find it difficult, over the course of multiple treatment appointments, to keep up with the changing ravages xerostomia can cause. In these instances, patients may benefit from having all their treatment conducted at one time under general anesthesia. Similarly, patients with Alzheimers' or dementia often cannot tolerate traditional treatment.



Medically compromised Patients with complex medical conditions are also likely to be taking any of the over 700 commonly used medications that are known to cause xerostomia. These patients often need extensive dental work to repair years worth of taking these medications. Due to their complex medical conditions, these high-risk patients are best treated and monitored in the safety of a hospital.



Stage I treatment (completed)

Extractions, # 18, 29
RCT # 19
Bridge # 2 - 5, 11 - 15, 28 - 31
PFM Crowns, # 19, 20, 21
Composite # 6, 17, 27
Porcelain Labial Veneers, # 7, 8, 9
Surgical Crown Lengthening, # 19, 20, 21
Surgical Scaling/Root Planing all 4 quadrants

Stage II treatment will include:

Veneers # 22 - 27

Disabled Patients who are disabled are often unable to cooperate with dentistry either physically (such as a patient with cerebral palsy who is unable to remain still) or mentally (such as a patient with autism who does not understand how and why to cooperate with the dentist). Some dentists attempt to treat these patients using restraints, which can be traumatic for the patient, and is often not well-tolerated, resulting in the treatment not being completed. Under general anesthesia, all the treatment can be done at once for the patient without restraints.

Safety concerns

The idea of general anesthesia is scary for some people. While there is some level of risk associated with general anesthesia, it is safe when administered in an appropriately equipped facility by an appropriately trained individual who can manage potential complications. At The Blende Dental Group, general anesthesia is administered in a hospital setting by an anesthesiologist, not by the dentist. This safeguard sets us apart from some of our peers, some of whom try to monitor anesthesia and perform dentistry at the same time.

It's also important to note that anesthesia today is safer than ever before, thanks to newer and safer drugs, and major advances in technology and monitoring equipment. In fact, undergoing general anesthesia is statistically safer than driving in a car, flying in an airplane, or walking across the street.

Remember, dental diseases will not go away on their own, they require treatment. Without treatment, a patient's medical health may be threatened due to infection. Patients may experience pain, their speech may be affected, or they may experience poor nutrition. If their smiles are visibly affected, patients may experience a loss of self-esteem. A child's growth and development may also be affected.

For certain patients, general anesthesia may be the only way to deliver treatment in a safe and comfortable manner. It is therefore an accepted standard of care, supported by the American Dental Association, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the American Medical Association, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.